

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

冒険少年

Boken-shonen

あだち充

Adachi Mitsuru

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

小学館

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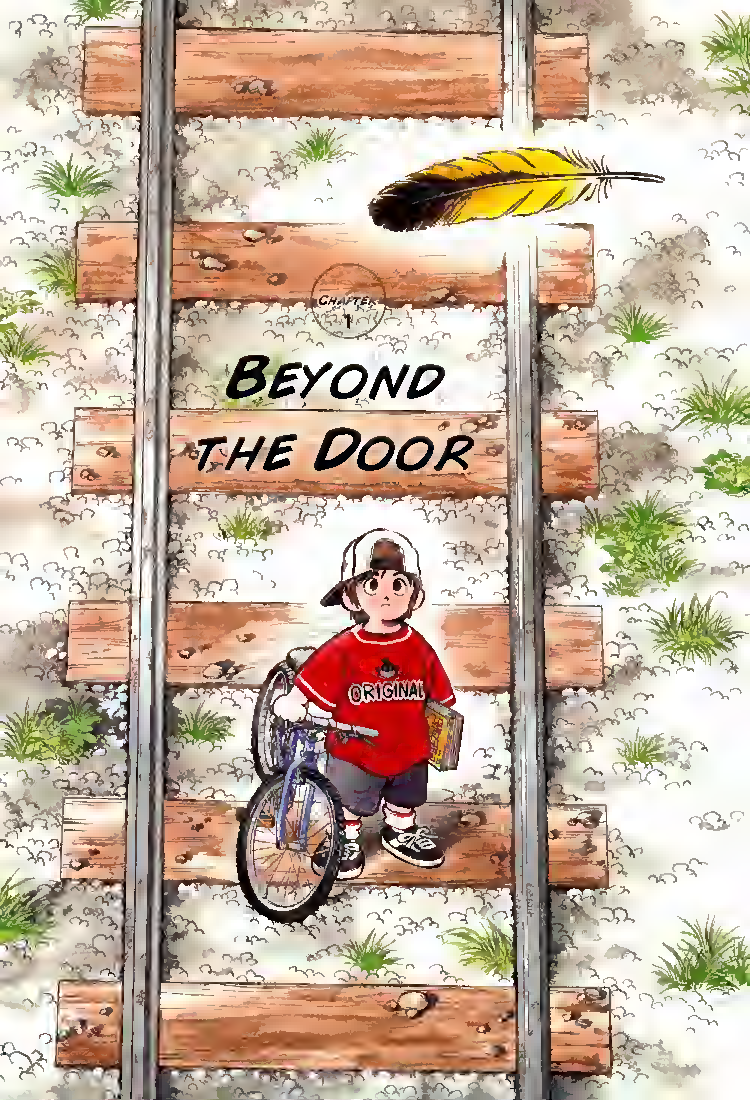
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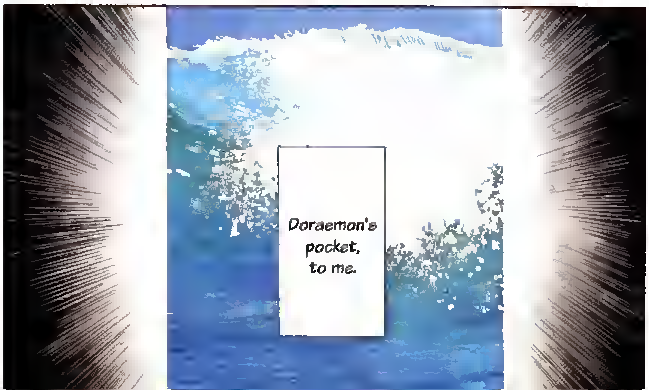
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CHAPTER 1
BEYOND THE DOOR
ORIGINAL

(note: The legendary cartoon character Doraemon is a robotic cat with the ability to pull all sorts of mysterious and magical gadgets out of his pocket which then take his friends on adventures.)









(Wall 100th Annual National High School Baseball Tournament)

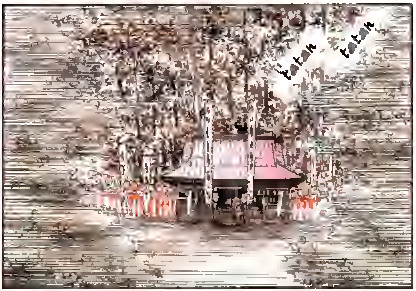


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hmmm

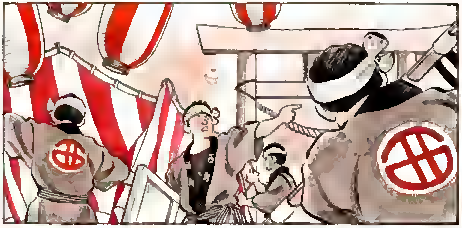
(Banner Festival)

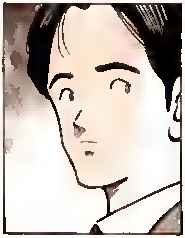





tatan tatan

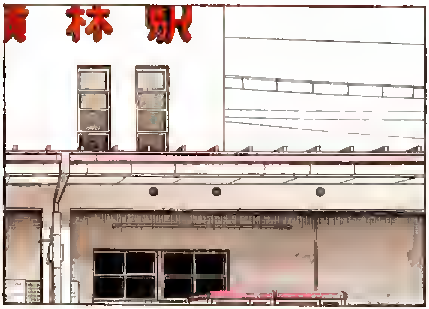

hhhhh

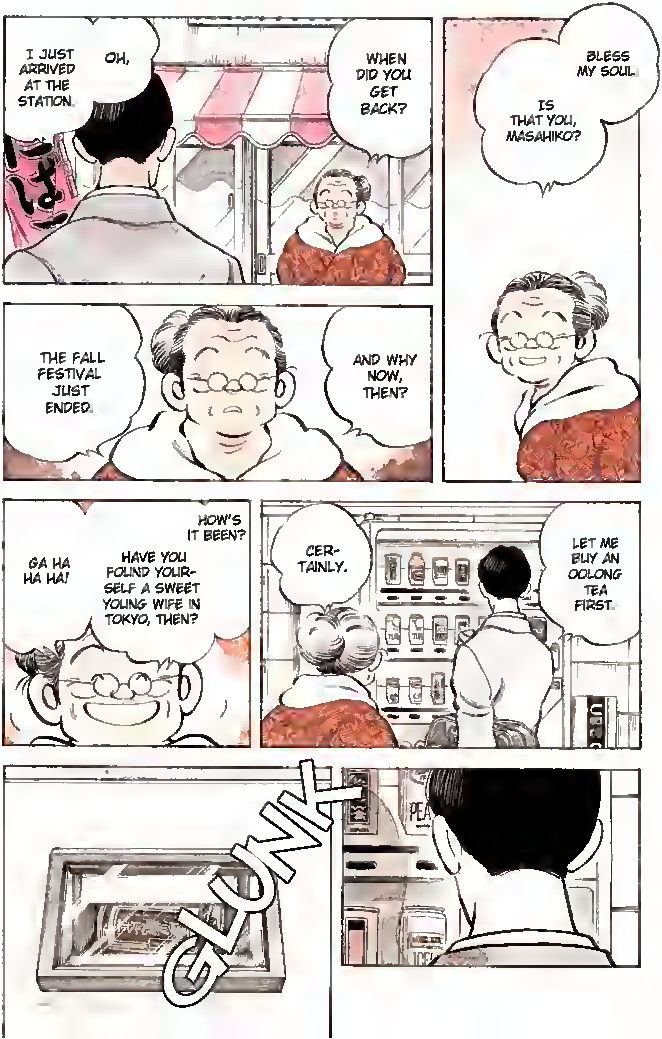


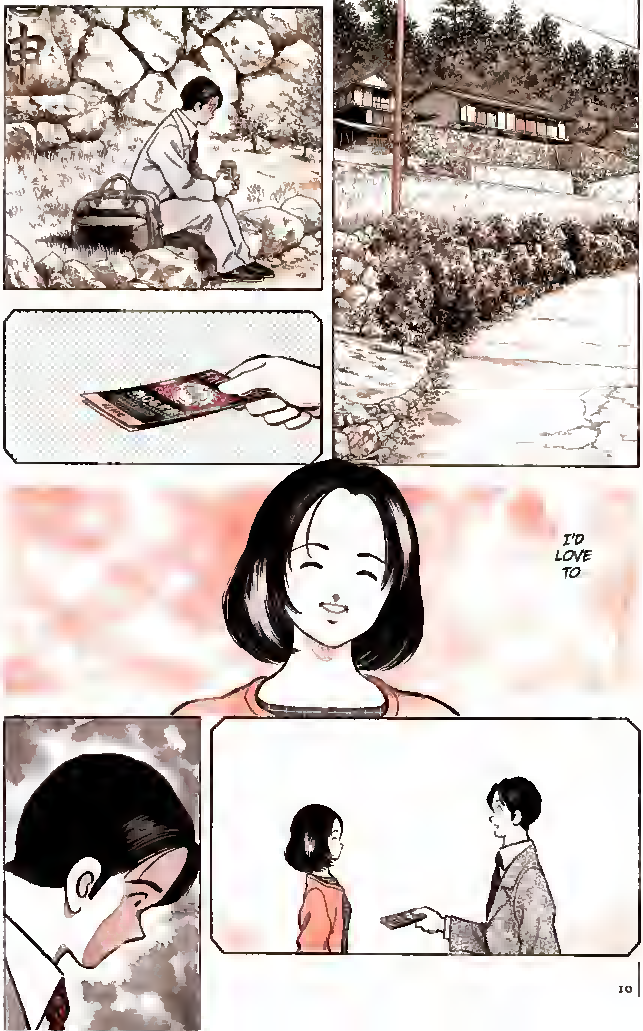


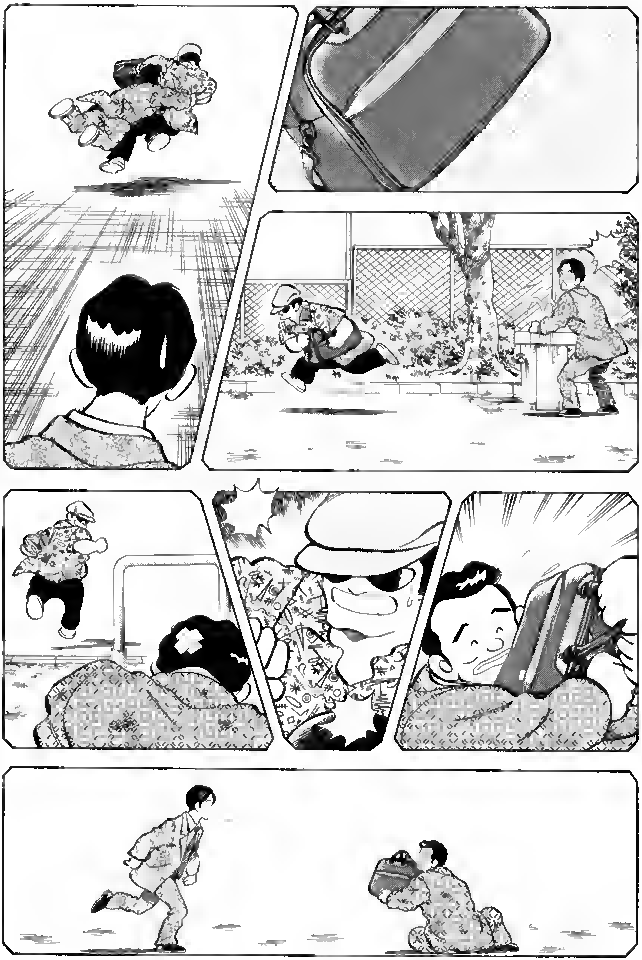




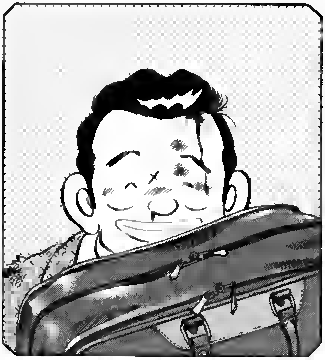

東林駅


I JUST ARRIVED AT THE STATION.
OH,
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
BLESS MY SOUL.
IS THAT YOU, MASAHIKO?
THE FALL FESTIVAL JUST ENDED.
AND WHY NOW, THEN?
HOW'S IT BEEN?
GA HA HA HA!
HAVE YOU FOUND YOURSELF A SWEET YOUNG WIFE IN TOKYO, THEN?
CERTAINLY.
LET ME BUY AN OOLONG TEA FIRST.
GLUNK

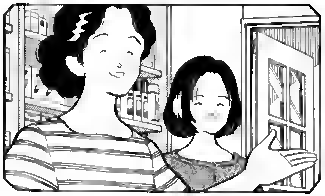

I'D
LOVE
TO

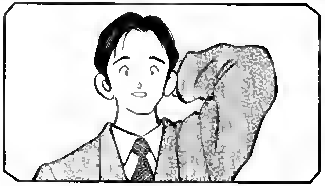


I found work with a pharmaceutical company in Tokyo, shuffling around on outdoor errands...

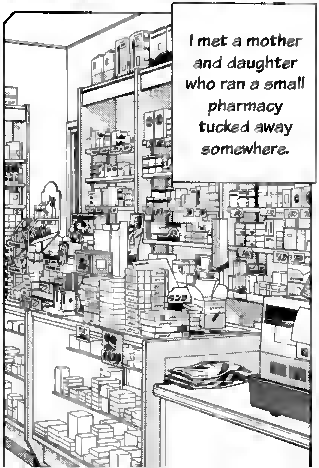


HIRAGA PHARMACY





I met a mother and daughter who ran a small pharmacy tucked away somewhere.

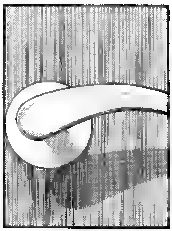



RMACY
.. Later,


CLUNK
hiss
FLOP

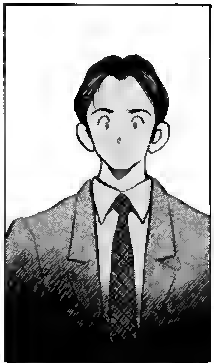

meowww
SHUNK
...That's right.





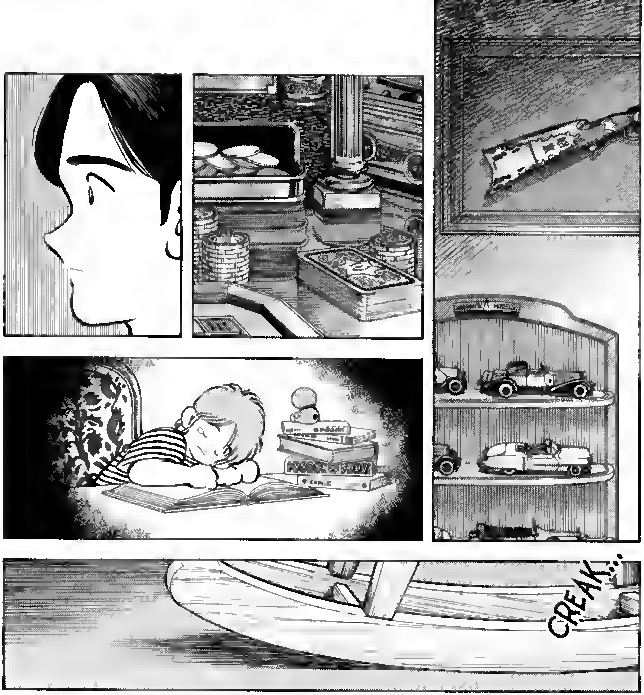

This room was Doraemon's pocket, to me.

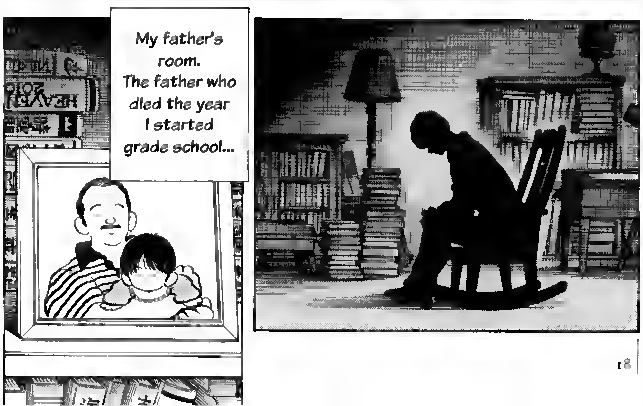

It gave me the secret tools to make any of my wishes come true.



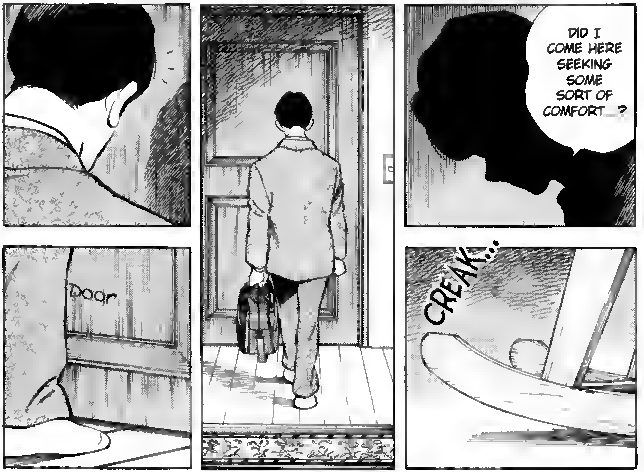

click


A trip around the world...
...and not just that, but also space.
The past...
The future ...

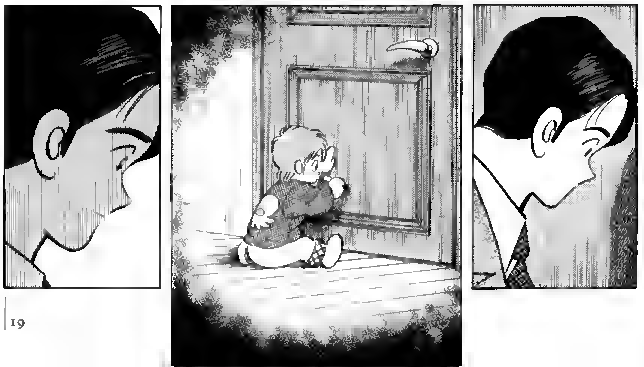

CREAK...

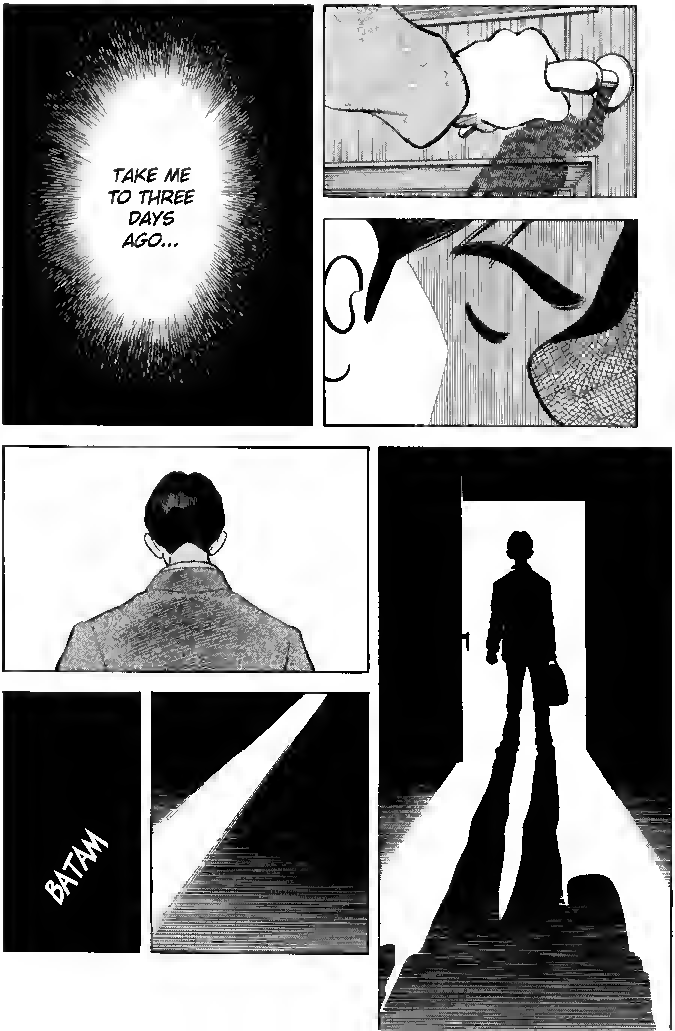

My father's room. The father who died the year I started grade school...

(Note: Doraemon's "doko demo doa" (Anywhere door) is a tool that transports the user to any time or place they wish. An essential part of Nobita and Friends' adventures.)

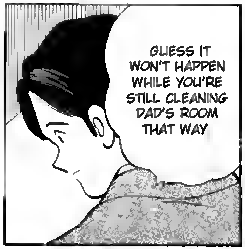


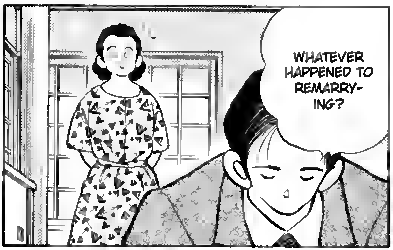
Anywhere Door



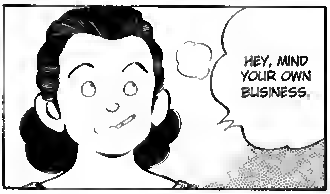

TAKE ME TO THREE DAYS AGO...
BATAM


YOU SHOULD LOCK THE DOOR BEFORE YOU GO OUT.
WHAT, WERE YOU OUT BACK?
MASAHIKO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'VE BEEN INSIDE ALL DAY...
NOT REALLY...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOU NEVER CALLED TO LET ME KNOW.
BUT WHAT'S WITH YOU?
NO NEED. I'M JUST ON MY WAY.
SHALL I MAKE SOME TEA?
THE NEIGHBORS ARE ALL CLOSE AS FAMILY
I TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME
WELL, YOU LOOK FINE.


GUESS IT WON'T HAPPEN WHILE YOU'RE STILL CLEANING DAD'S ROOM THAT WAY


WHATEVER HAPPENED TO REMARRYING?

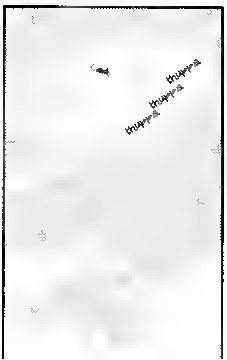

ALWAYS WAS AN ODD BOY


HEY, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

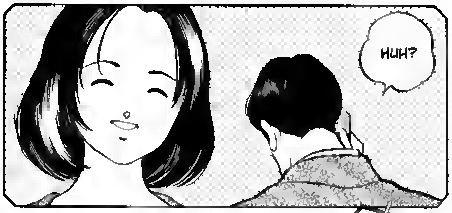

I'LL BE BACK.


...Three days ago.

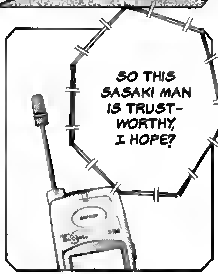



thump
thump
thump

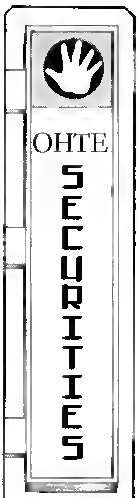


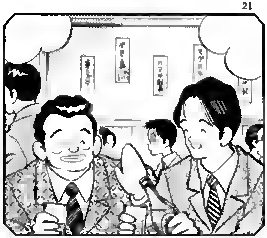

HUH?


OH, ABSO-LUTELY

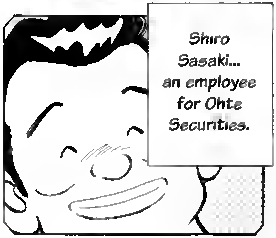

SO THIS SASAKI MAN IS TRUST-WORTHY, I HOPE?


RECEPTION


OHTE
SECURITIES




So the man intro-duced himself...


Shiro Sasaki... an employee for Ohte Securities.


IF YOU SEE THESE PEOPLE
CON-MAN
SANPEI HIRANUMA (41)
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE CALLED IS OUT OF SERVICE.
That mother and daughter will discover the truth tomorrow.
SPLASH
That they were deceived by his smiling face and my glowing words...
That their store is now owned by someone else...

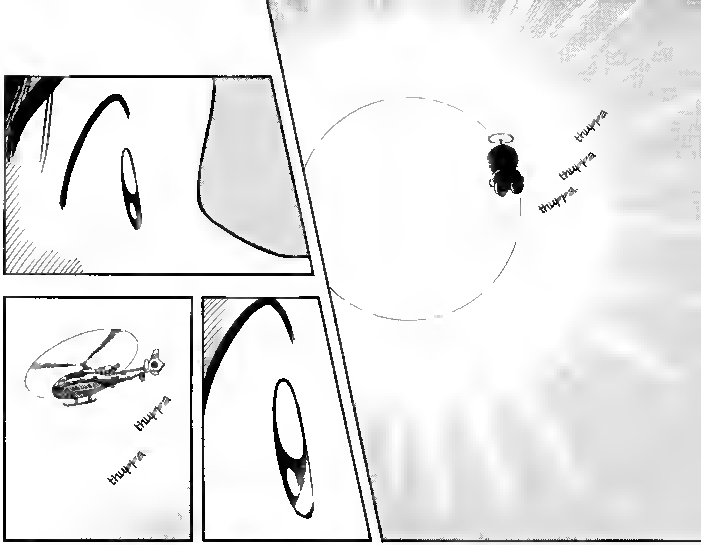

IS THAT YOU, MASAHIKO?
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
林駅
Pshhh
POOR OLD THING'S FINALLY LOST HER MARBLES

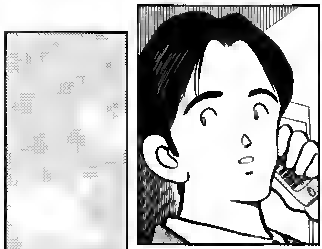

tatah tatah
Tomorrow is our first date. A date that took an entire year to ask her out on...
GATAN
don don don
pishala pishala
I'LL NEED TO SEE YOUR BOARDING TICKET.
THE FALL FESTIVAL JUST ENDED
tatah tatah

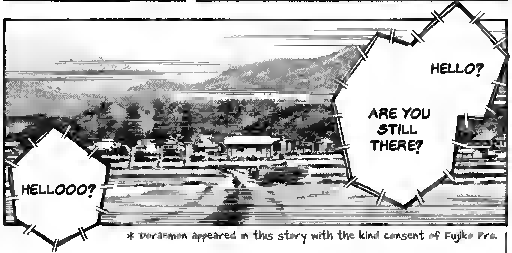

HUH?
OH, CERTAINLY...
SOMETHING WRONG?
YES
VERY GOOD
OCTOBER 2ND...
HUH?
HELLO?
UH, YES?


DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU!
HE'S ACTUALLY A CON-MAN!
N-NO, HE'S NOT!
SO THIS SASAKI MAN IS TRUSTWORTHY, I HOPE?
THWUMP
YES, HE REALLY PULLED THE WOOL OVER MY EYES, TOO!
BUT YOU DID SAY HE WAS YOUR FRIEND.
I THOUGHT THE WHOLE THING SEEMED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE
I KNEW IT
UNDER-STAND?!
MAKE SURE YOU DO
I'LL DO THAT.
HE'S A WELL-KNOWN CON-MAN! THE AUTHORITIES ARE AFTER HIM!
CALL THE POLICE BEFORE HE CAN SHOW UP
KA-CHA-KA-CHA


ERR...
WHAT IS IT?!
OH, GOOD
I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T THE CONMAN.
ABOUT THE EVENT ON SUNDAY
HUH?
ARE WE STILL GOOD FOR THAT?
OH,
Y-YES, YES.
OF COURSE
I'LL STOP BY AS SOON AS I'M BACK IN TOKYO
ARE YOU OUT OF TOWN RIGHT NOW?







* Doraemon appeared in this story with the kind consent of Fujiko Pro.

- Chapter 1 End -

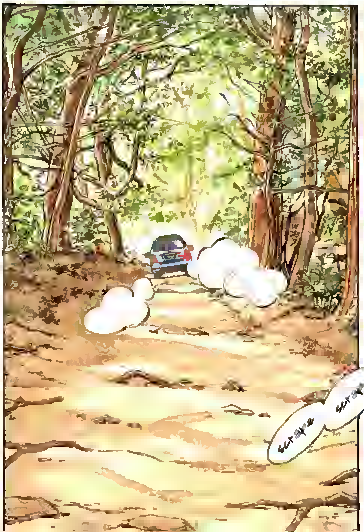


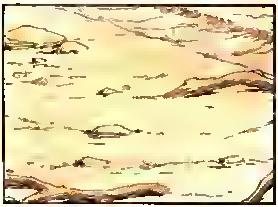
CHAPTER
2

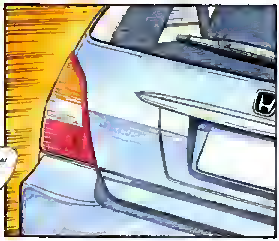
LOST





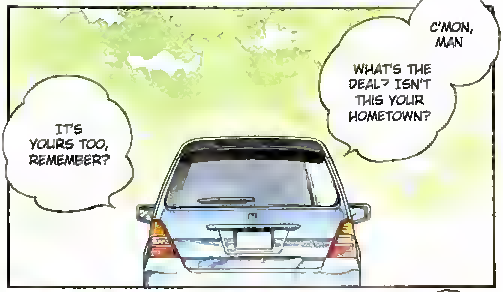


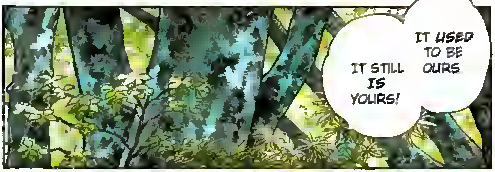




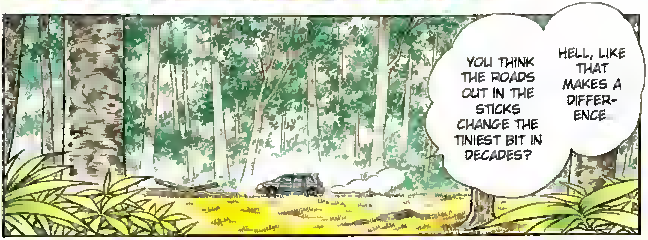
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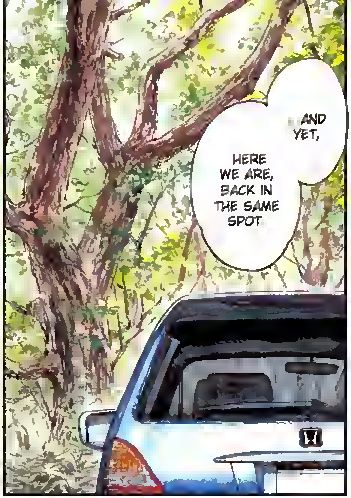
HUH?

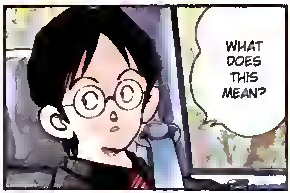


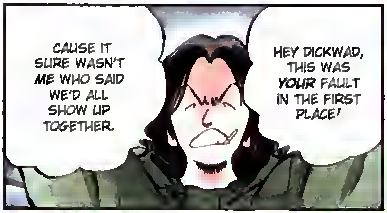


GOOD POINT...


...

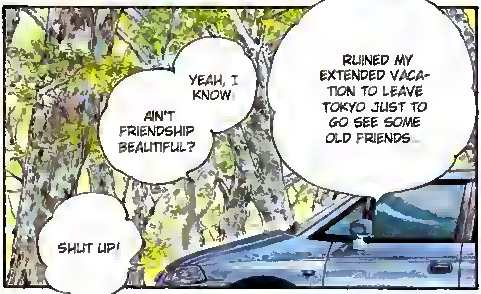

AND YET,
HERE WE ARE, BACK IN THE SAME SPOT.


WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

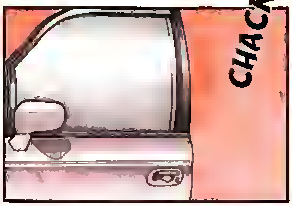

CAUSE IT SURE WASN'T ME WHO SAID WE'D ALL SHOW UP TOGETHER.
HEY DICKWAD, THIS WAS YOUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

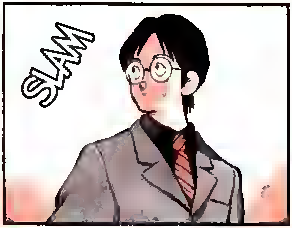

MAYBE IT MEANS WE SHOULDN'T BE COMING BACK AFTER ALL?

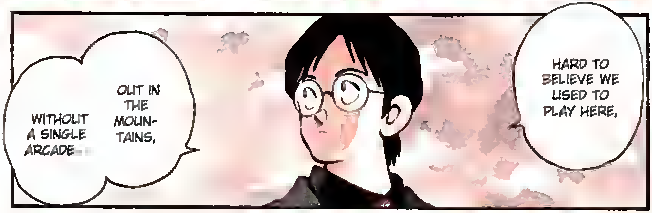

OLD FRIENDS...


RUINED MY EXTENDED VACATION TO LEAVE TOKYO JUST TO GO SEE SOME OLD FRIENDS...
YEAH, I KNOW.
AIN'T FRIENDSHIP BEAUTIFUL?
SHUT UP!


TCHIR
TCHIR


CHACK

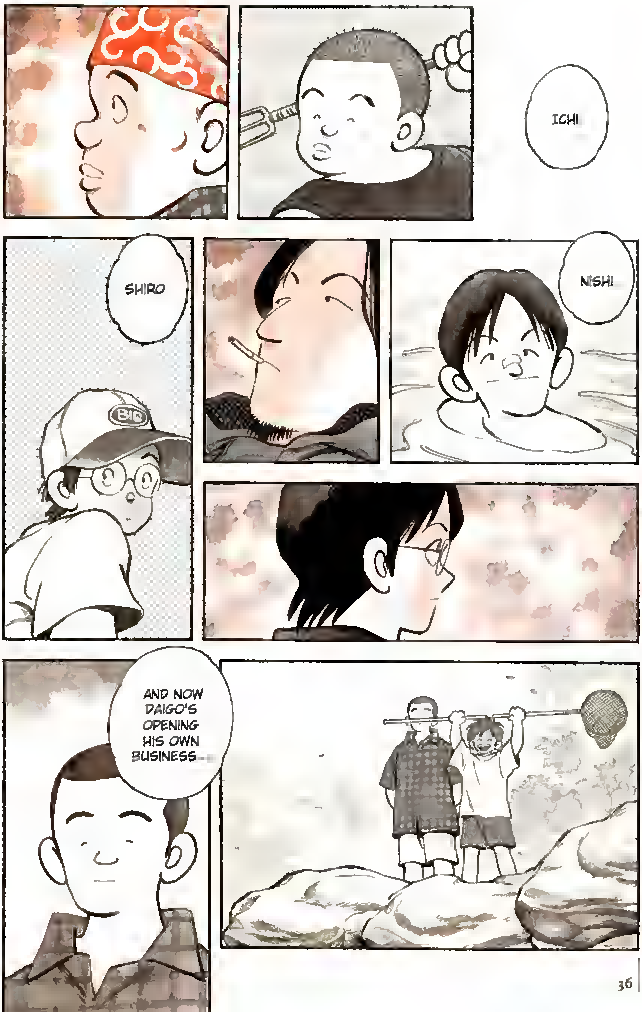

SLAM

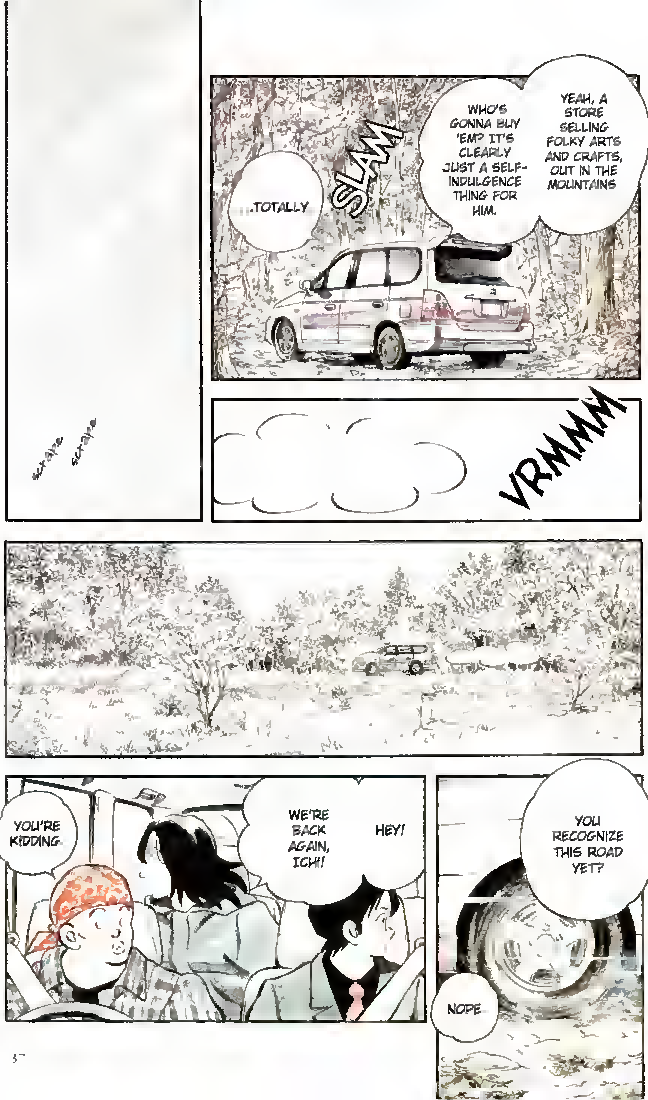

HARD TO BELIEVE WE USED TO PLAY HERE,
OUT IN THE MOUN-TAINS,
WITHOUT A SINGLE ARCADE


THE FIVE OF US, ALWAYS TOGETHER.



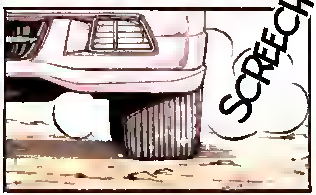

YEAH.


ICHI
SHIRO
NISHI
AND NOW DAIGO'S OPENING HIS OWN BUSINESS

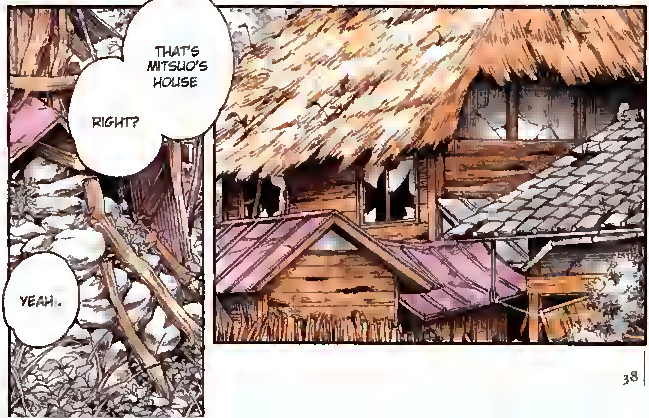

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
..TOTALLY
SLAM
WHO'S GONNA BUY 'EM? IT'S CLEARLY JUST A SELF-INDULGENCE THING FOR HIM.
YEAH, A STORE SELLING FOLKY ARTS AND CRAFTS, OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
VRMMM
YOU'RE KIDDING.
WE'RE BACK AGAIN, ICHI!
HEY!
YOU RECOGNIZE THIS ROAD YET?
NOPE




NO,
YOU'RE NOT.


SCREECH



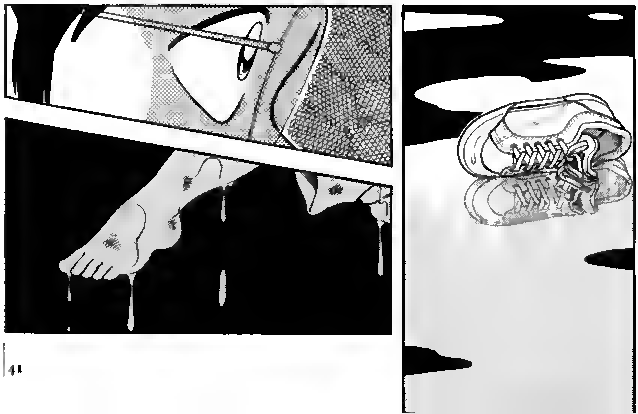

THAT'S MITSUO'S HOUSE
RIGHT?
YEAH.


'BOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN HIS MOM WENT TO LIVE IN SAITAMA WITH HIS SISTER AFTER SHE GOT MARRIED... I THINK
WHEN DID IT GO EMPTY LIKE THAT?
BR.M.M...
Y, YEAH
LET'S HEAD BACK NOW...
HOW MANY YEARS?

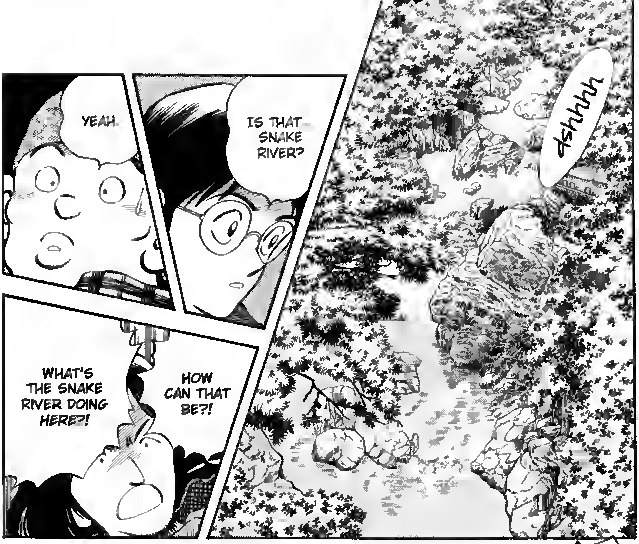

I ALWAYS EXCHANGED NEW YEAR'S CARDS WITH HIM EVERY YEAR.
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I CAME OUT TO TOKYO
SINCE WE SAW DAIGO?
NO IDEA.
ACTUALLY,
I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW HIM IN MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS,
YOU'VE SEEN HIM, RIGHT ICHI? YOU STILL LIVE HERE
WELL,
WE DID GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
NEITHER DID I
WELL, YOU GUYS STILL COME BACK EVERY YEAR FOR OBON AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.
WHY DON'T YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM?
SERIOUS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT OLD-SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP TALK?
NOPE.

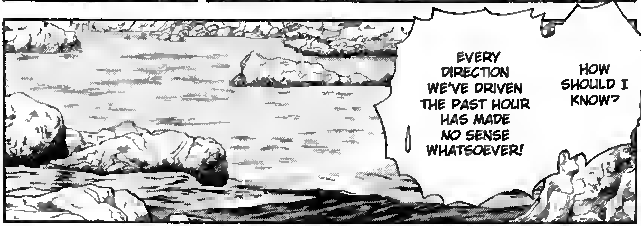

YEAH
VRMMMM
RIGHT?
NO REAL REASON, I GUESS
WHY DON'T I...?


THE YEARS CAN PASS. BUT A CHILDHOOD FRIEND IS ALWAYS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

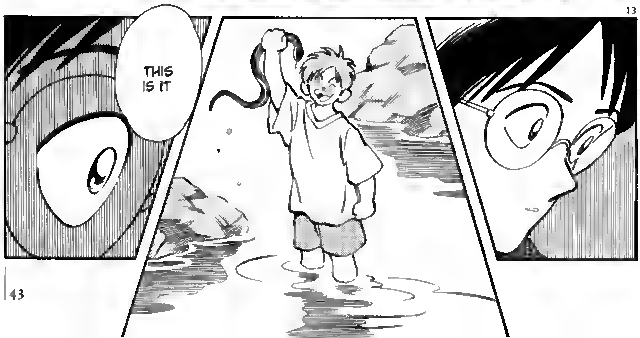


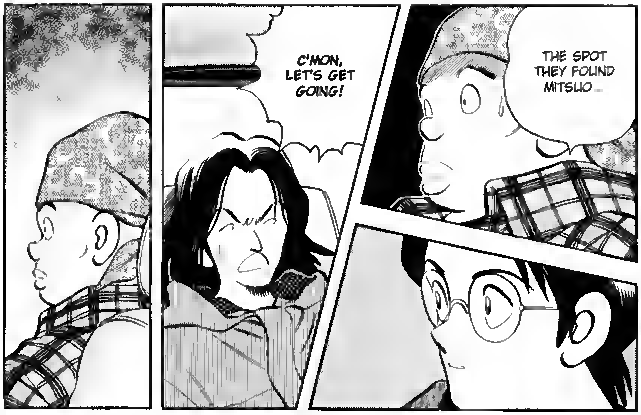

WHOA!
SCREECH
WH-
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

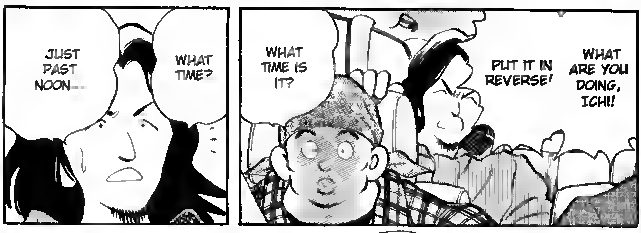

YEAH.
IS THAT SNAKE RIVER?
Ashhhh
WHAT'S THE SNAKE RIVER DOING HERE?!
HOW CAN THAT BE?!


EVERY DIRECTION WE'VE DRIVEN THE PAST HOUR HAS MADE NO SENSE WHATSOEVER!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

13


THIS IS IT


C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!
THE SPOT THEY FOUND MITSUO...

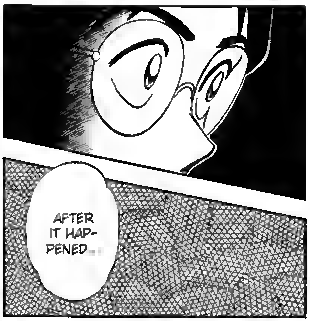

JUST PAST NOON...
WHAT TIME?
WHAT TIME IS IT?
PUT IT IN REVERSE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, IGHI!

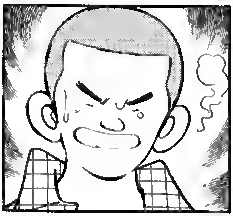

BRRRM...
WHY DO I HAVE THE LIGHTS ON TO SEE...?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT

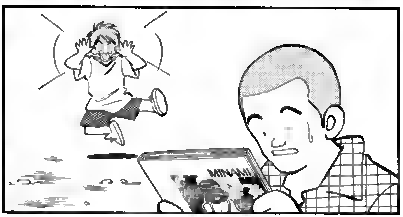

AAAAHH!!
SHHH
I PUT IT IN REVERSE! I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S MOVING FORWARD!
NO, YOU IDIOT!
REVERSE! BACK IT UP!
Fshhhh

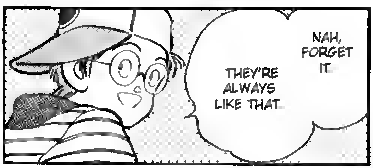

I KNEW IT...
shiv...
YOU KNEW WHAT?!
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, WAS IT?
W-
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP NOW?!
DIDN'T IT ALWAYS BUG YOU GUYS TOO, IN THE BACK OF YOUR MINDS?
THIS WHOLE TIME!
IT'S MITSUO
MITSUO'S DOING ALL OF THIS
OH, COME ON
IF IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, THEN DAIGO DID IT!
WHY WOULD HE BE HAUNTING US, INSTEAD?!
WE KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT
WE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY.


Minami Asakura Photo Book
Minami-kaze
BU
The Beautiful Homeroom Artist

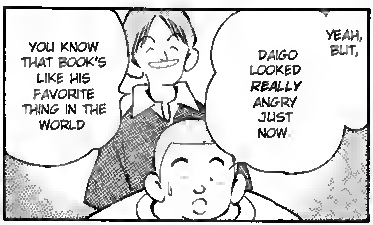

AFTER IT HAPPENED...



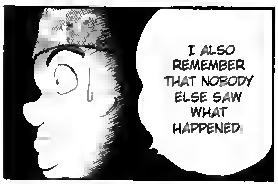


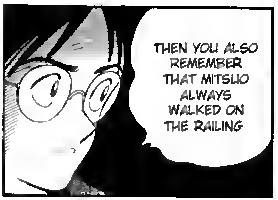

NAH, FORGET IT.
THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.


SHOULD WE STOP 'EM?

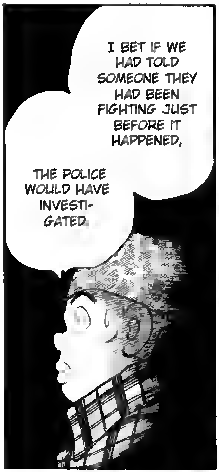

YOU KNOW THAT BOOK'S LIKE HIS FAVORITE THING IN THE WORLD
DAIGO LOOKED *REALLY* ANGRY JUST NOW.
YEAH, BUT,

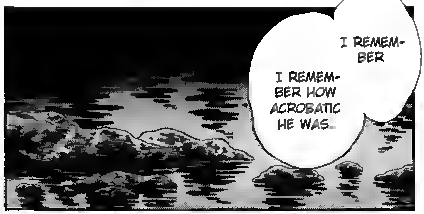

Fshhh...

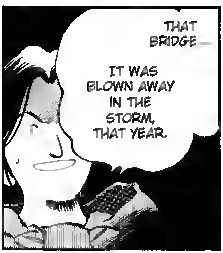

I ALSO REMEMBER THAT NOBODY ELSE SAW WHAT HAPPENED


THEN YOU ALSO REMEMBER THAT MITSUO ALWAYS WALKED ON THE RAILING


YOU REMEMBER WHAT DAIGO SAID
MITSUO WAS WALKING ON THE RAILING OF THE BRIDGE, LOST HIS FOOTING AND FELL IN THE SNAKE RIVER. IT HAD BEEN RAINING, SO THE RIVER WAS HIGHER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN USUAL.
I REMEMBER THAT.


I BET IF WE HAD TOLD SOMEONE THEY HAD BEEN FIGHTING JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED,
THE POLICE WOULD HAVE INVESTI-GATED.

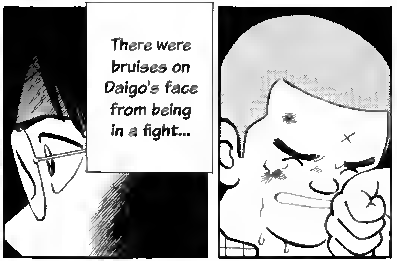

I REMEM-BER
I REMEM-BER HOW ACROBATIC HE WAS...


THAT BRIDGE...
IT WAS BLOWN AWAY IN THE STORM, THAT YEAR.


ACRO-BATIC ENOUGH NOT TO MAKE A STUPID MISTAKE...
...LIKE THAT.


ZaH.

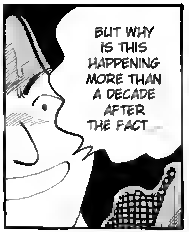



There were bruises on Daigo's face from being in a fight...


MITSUO?!
EEEEEEEK!!
herk
I THINK HE'S TELLING US TO COME WITH HIM...


HE'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO US

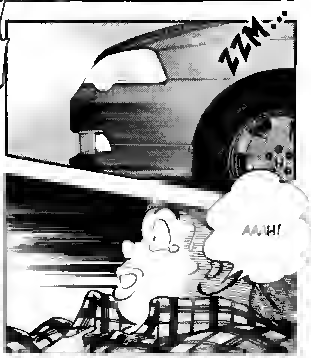

GO ON
N-
NO WAY, DUDE!


BUT WHY IS THIS HAPPENING MORE THAN A DECADE AFTER THE FACT

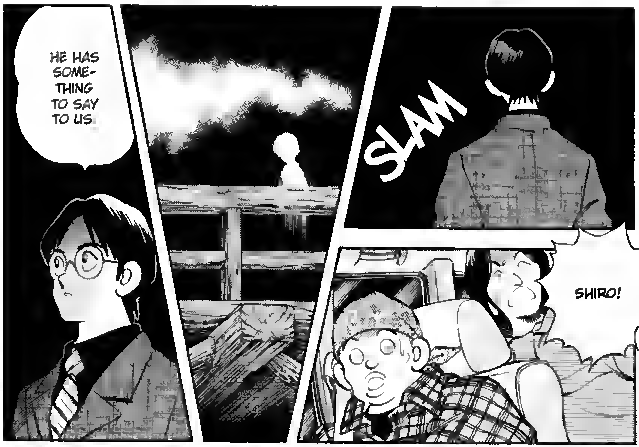

I KNOW THAT! HE WANTS VENGEANCE FOR WHAT HAPPENED!



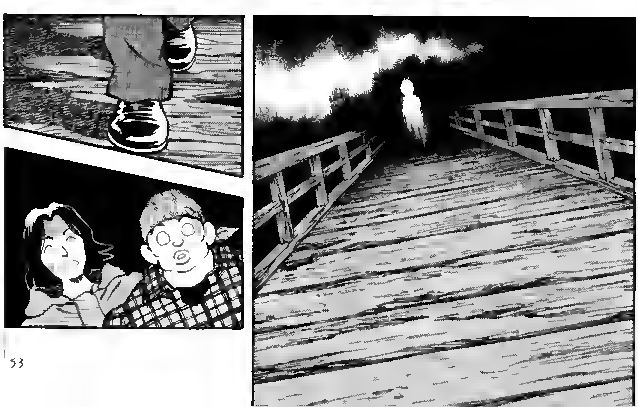

ZZMMM...
TH-
THE CAR'S MOVING ON ITS OWN!

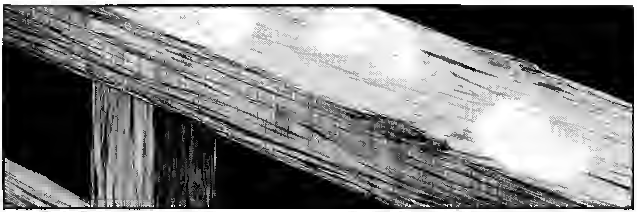

WIZ
AAH!


Fshhh...
Kchk
I THOUGHT THE STORM WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE WASHED THAT BRIDGE AWAY!

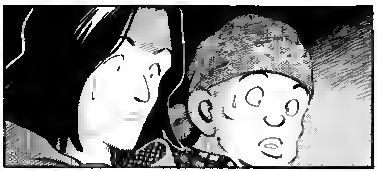

HE HAS SOME-THING TO SAY TO US.
SLAM
SHIRO!

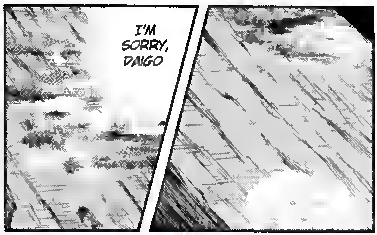

US, AS WE ARE NOW.






STOP MITSUO, IT'S DANGEROUS
IF I SHOW YOU MY SECRET TRICK, WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?

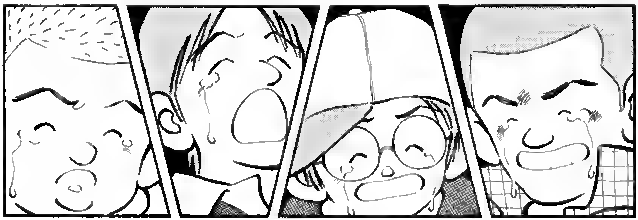



I'M SORRY, DAIGO


THINK BACK ON IT NOW
THINK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...


THERE'S ONE THING WE DIDN'T REMEMBER...

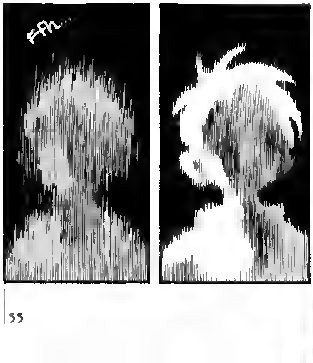

MOSS...




WE TRUSTED THEM, THAT'S WHY...


WE WEREN'T PROTECT-ING ANYONE

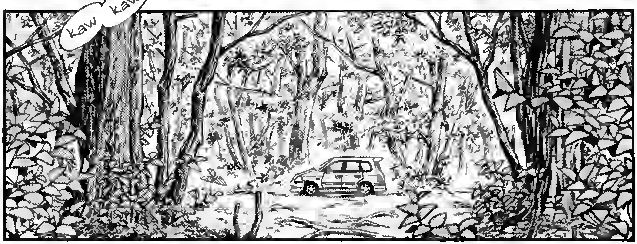

WE DIDN'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING...

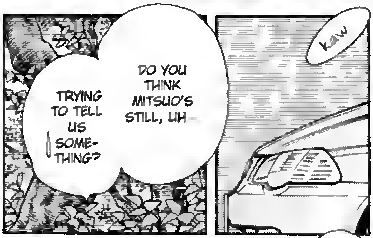

FFA...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MITSUO...

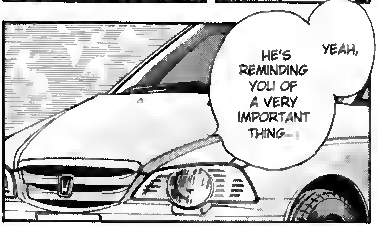

Sniff
Sniff
—WHENEVER DAIGO WOULD COME TO VISIT ME IN TOKYO,
HE'D ALWAYS COME UP WITH SOME SUDDEN EXCUSE TO LEAVE
IT WAS ALWAYS A PAINFULLY LAME EXCUSE,
BUT HE LOOKED SO REGRETFUL WHEN HE FINALLY LEFT...
I THINK WHEN WE GREW UP,
WE ALSO NURTURED SOMETHING POINTLESS BETWEEN US


SLAM
WE'RE NOT GETTING LOST ANYMORE.
LET'S GO, ICHI.
NOPE.
ARE THEY EVEN COMING?
MAN, YOUR FRIENDS SURE ARE LATE
(Sign: Folk crafts Daigo)
HEY, DAIGO?





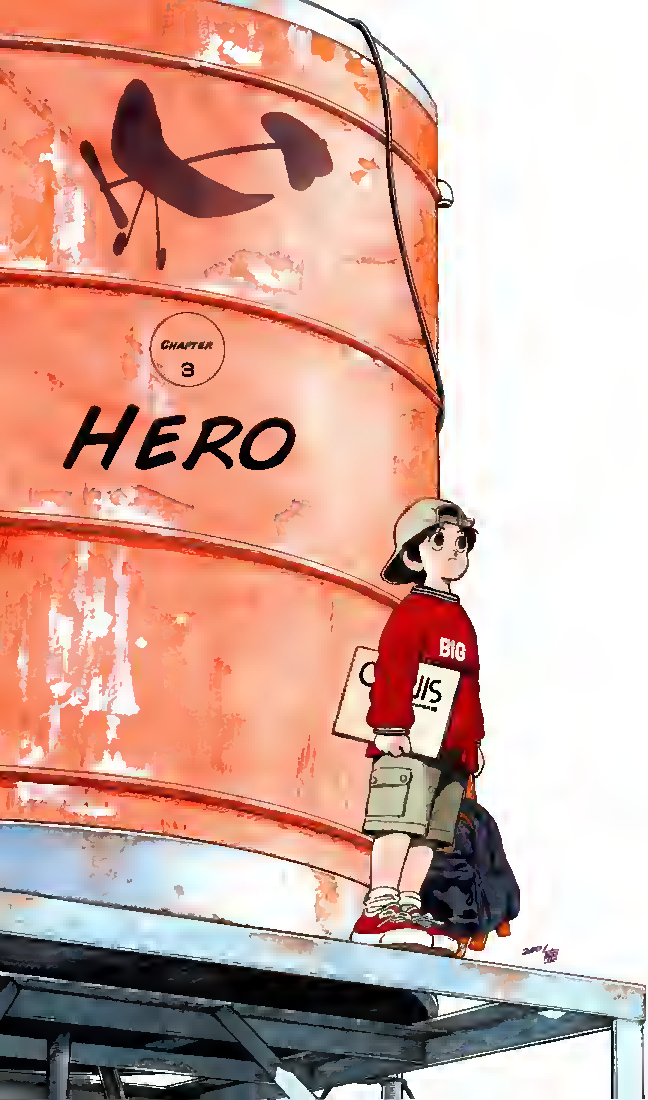








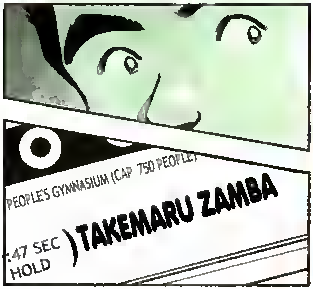
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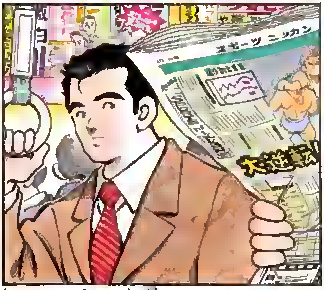

CHAPTER
3
HERO
BIG

Scanned by Athanor
Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pet



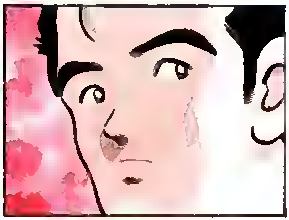


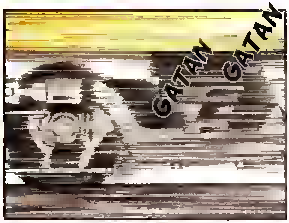




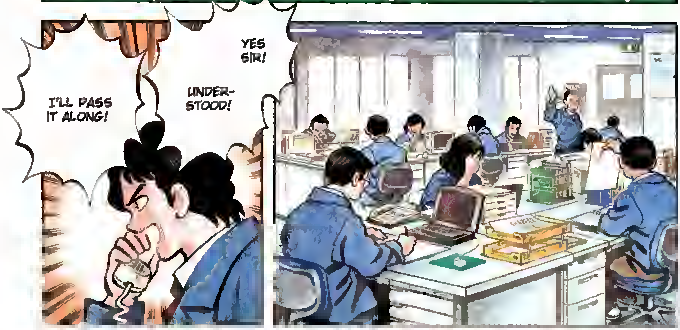
(Paper come from Behind)



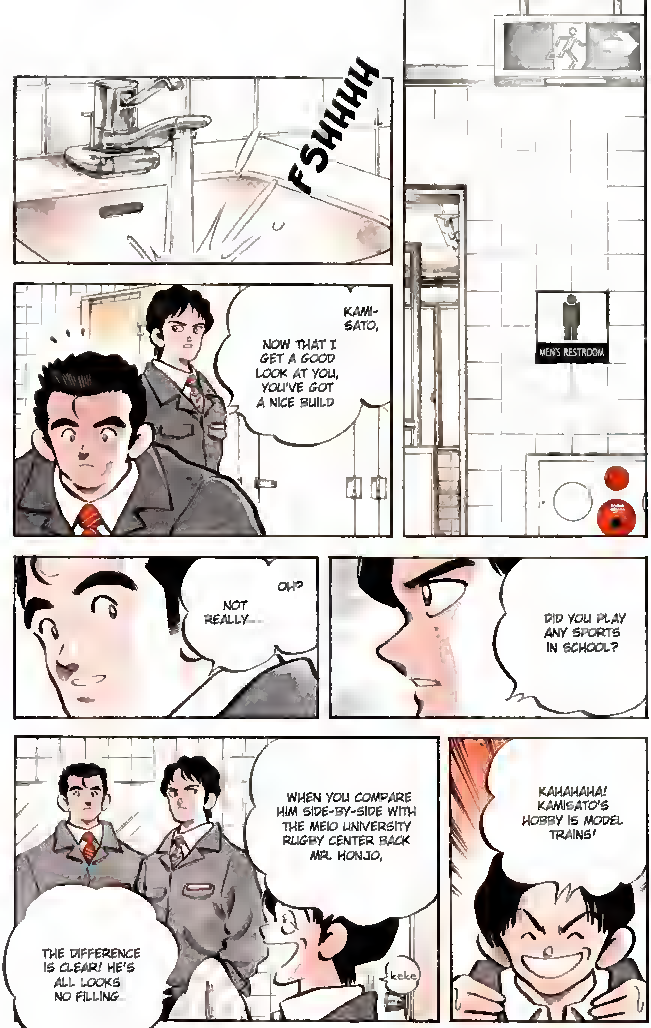



GATAN
GATAN

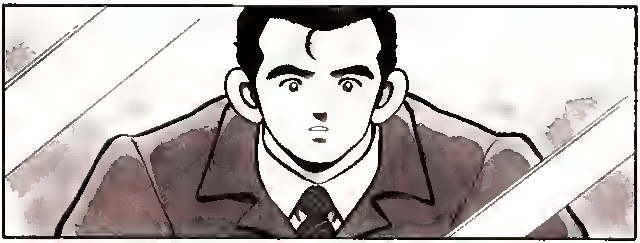

SHIMAOH ELECTRONICS

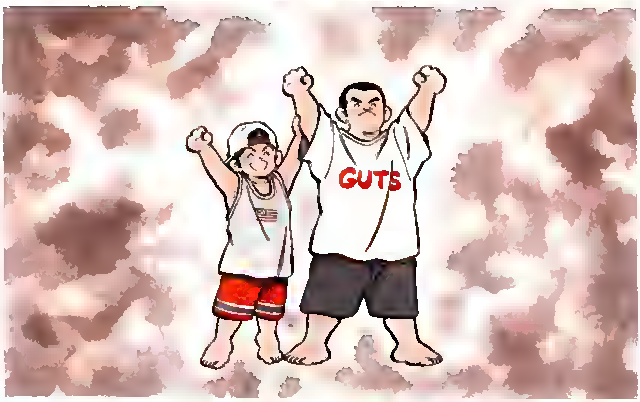

YES SIR!
UNDER-STOOD!
I'LL PASS IT ALONG!

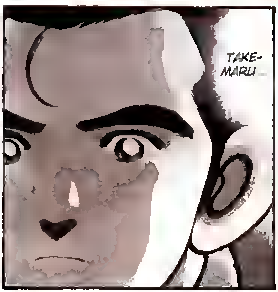

PLOP
SECTION CHIEF!
ABOUT THE DEAL WITH HACHIOJI CONSTRUCTION...
BCC
Professional Wrestling
Takamaru Zaiba
Tokyo-to, Chiyoda-ku
Hyakutaibashi
Shimizu Electronics KK
Technology Division
Yuji Kawazato
THUMP
SHHUNK

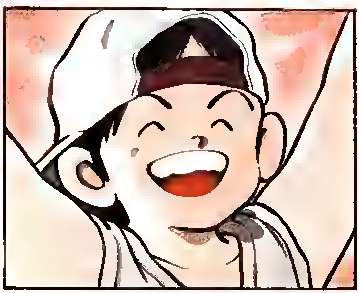

FSHHHH
MEN'S RESTROOM
KAMI-SATO, NOW THAT I GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU, YOU'VE GOT A NICE BUILD
OH? NOT REALLY...
DID YOU PLAY ANY SPORTS IN SCHOOL?
WHEN YOU COMPARE HIM SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE MEIO UNIVERSITY RUGBY CENTER BACK MR. HONJO,
keke
THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR! HE'S ALL LOOKS NO FILLING
KAHAHAHA! KAMISATO'S HOBBY IS MODEL TRAINS!


I HAVEN'T BEEN WORKING OUT IN THE LEAST FOR YEARS...
NO, IT'S TRUE, KODAMA IS RIGHT!
GOTCHA!
BOMF
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO HIT HIM
YOU GONNA LET HIM TALK ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT?
W-WAIT A MINUTE,
DON'T EGG HIM ON, MR. HONJO!
LET'S GO, KODAMA!
COMING
GA HA HA!
HE'S RIGHT! THAT WAS ALL FLAB, NO MUSCLE.
OOOOF.
CHPP



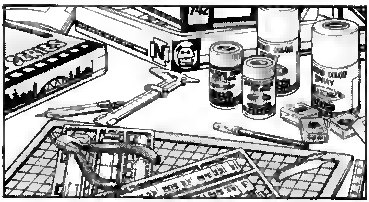

GUTS

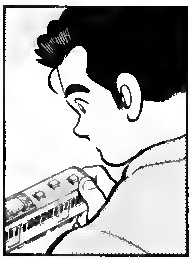
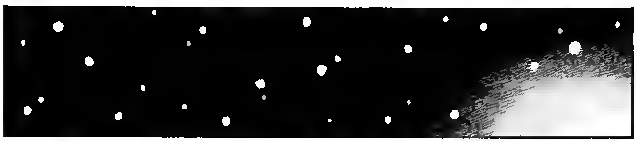

TAKE-
MARU...

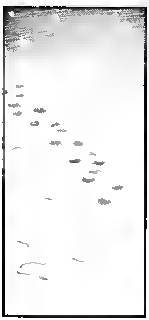



Coffee
POGO
Yummk
I MUST HAVE LEFT IT IN THE LOCKER WHEN I WAS CHANGING
I WAS HAVING TROUBLE FINDING MY WALLET
MR. KAMI-SATO
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MS. TAKA-SAKA?

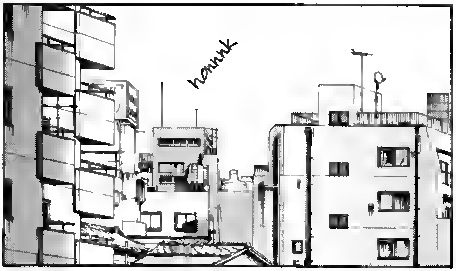

TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY
I'LL PAY YOU BACK AS SOON AS I GET BACK TO WORK
OH, THANK YOU
I CAN PICK UP YOUR BILL, THEN
OH?
IT'S NO PROBLEM ONLY 350 YEN
THEN IT CAN BE MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT, I SUPPOSE
I'LL PICK UP YOUR TAB ON YOUR BIRTHDAY NEXT
CLANG
IT IS?
WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, THEN
TEMPURA UDON FROM OHMURA, IT IS,
THEN
WELL, I COULD GET A TEMPURA UDON FROM OHMURA FOR THAT MUCH
FOR 350 YEN, HUH?



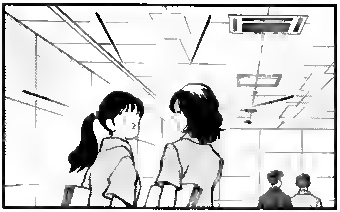




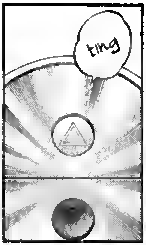


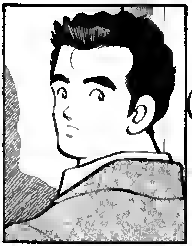


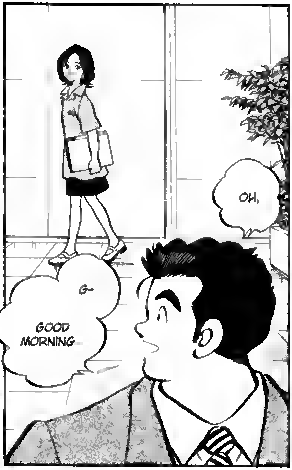

hmmm

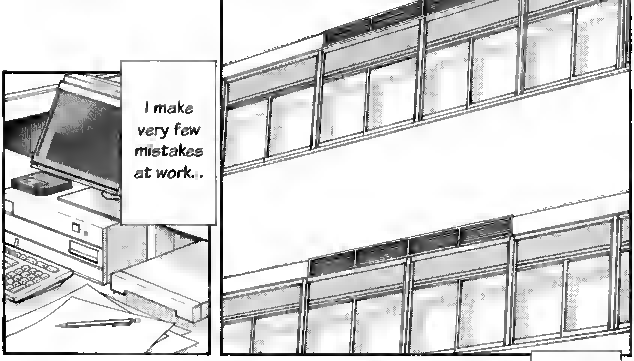

GOOD MORNING!




ting



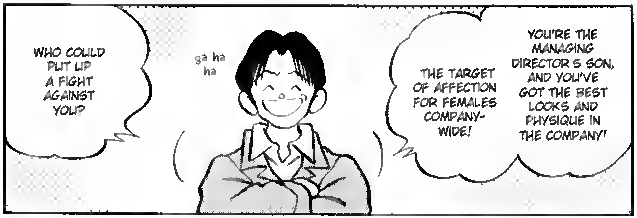

OH,
G-
GOOD MORNING

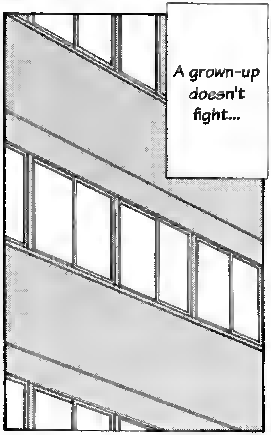

I make very few mistakes at work..

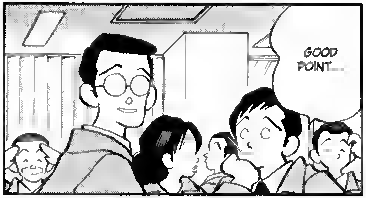

I've always done everything I could to avoid trouble or unnecessary risks.
I know my limits. I know what I'm capable of.

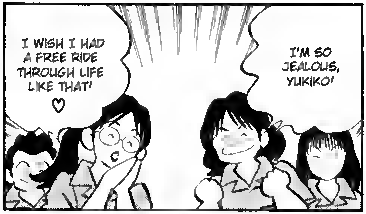

AS OF THIS MORNING, I HAVE BEGUN COURTING YUKIKO TAKASAKA!
EVERY-ONE!
LISTEN UP!


WHAAAT?
I LIKE TO AIM FOR THE TRY HEAD-ON, AND I ANNOUNCE MY INTENTIONS STRAIGHTFORWARDLY!
IT'S NOT TO MY TASTE TO GO SNEAKING AROUND!
WHO WOULD EVER THINK TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
HA HA HA!
I WON'T RUN OR HIDE FROM YOU! I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE HEAD-ON!
IF ANYONE DESIRES TO STOP ME, OR COMPETE WITH ME PLEASE COME FORTH!

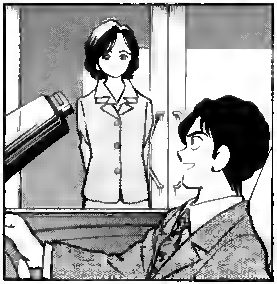

WHO COULD PUT UP A FIGHT AGAINST YOU?
ga ha ha
YOU'RE THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S SON, AND YOU'VE GOT THE BEST LOOKS AND PHYSIQUE IN THE COMPANY!
THE TARGET OF AFFECTION FOR FEMALES COMPANY-WIDE!


A grown-up doesn't fight...


GOOD POINT...

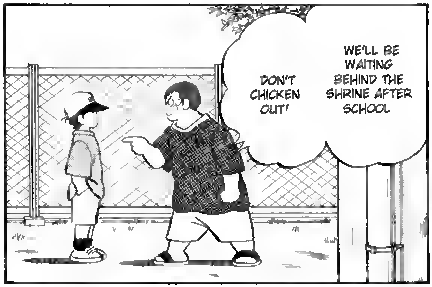

I WISH I HAD A FREE RIDE THROUGH LIFE LIKE THAT!
♡
I'M SO JEALOUS, YUKIKO!


BRMMMM



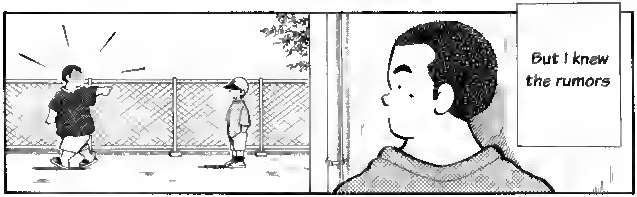



I never lost.
Until
CLUNK
Takemaru was my sidekick, one year younger than me.
GUTS

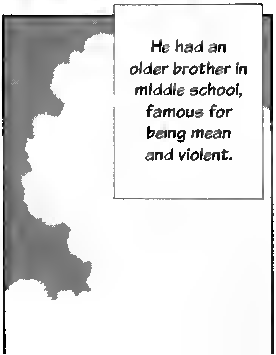

DON'T CHICKEN OUT!
WE'LL BE WAITING BEHIND THE SHRINE AFTER SCHOOL


YOU TELL KAMIGATO!
TELL HIM IT HAS TO BE A 2-ON-2 TAG TEAM MATCH NEXT TIME!


YOU'RE A TURKEY!
I'M NOT A CHICKEN!

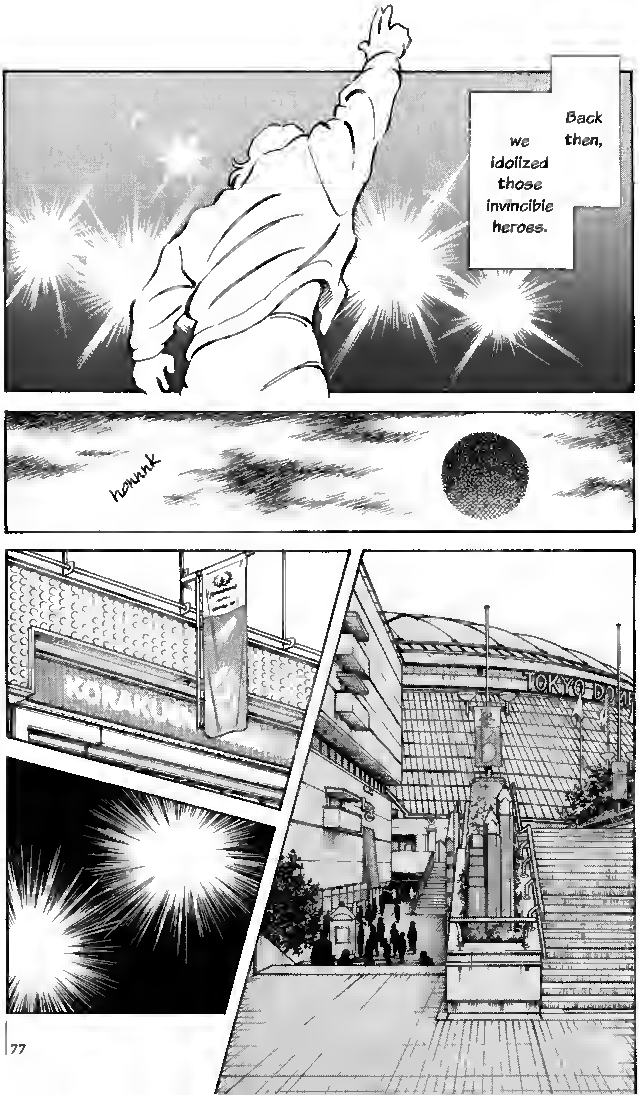

But I knew the rumors

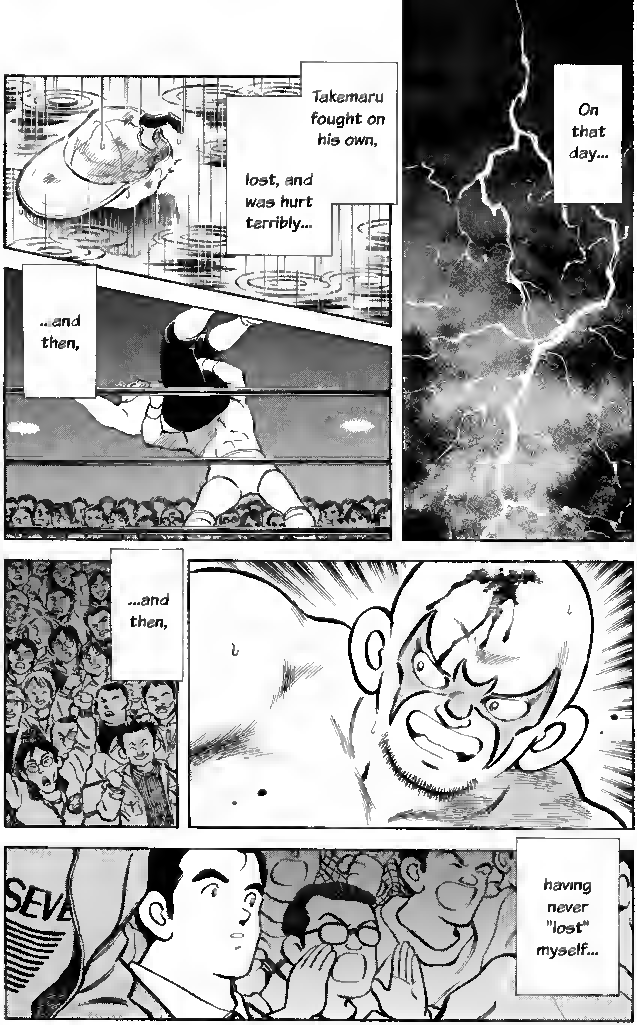

I left school early.
A COLD?

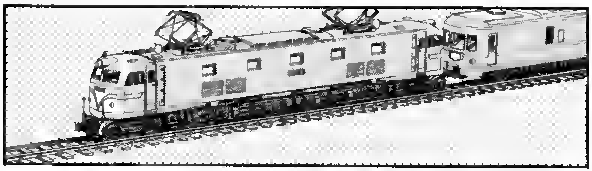

He had an older brother in middle school, famous for being mean and violent.

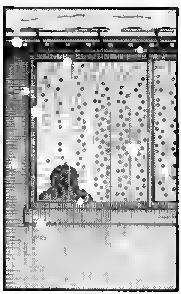


(Ticket Invitation)


Back then,
we idolized those invincible heroes.
hmmk
KORAKUEN
TOKYO DOME

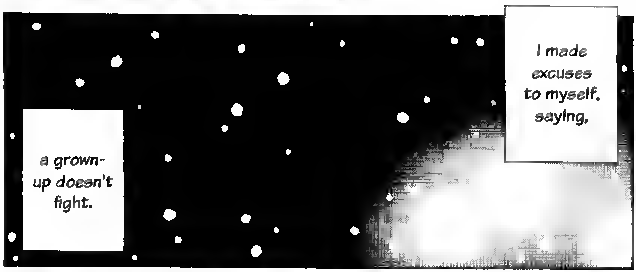

Takemaru fought on his own,
lost, and was hurt terribly...
...and then,
On that day...
...and then,
having never "lost" myself...






BIG

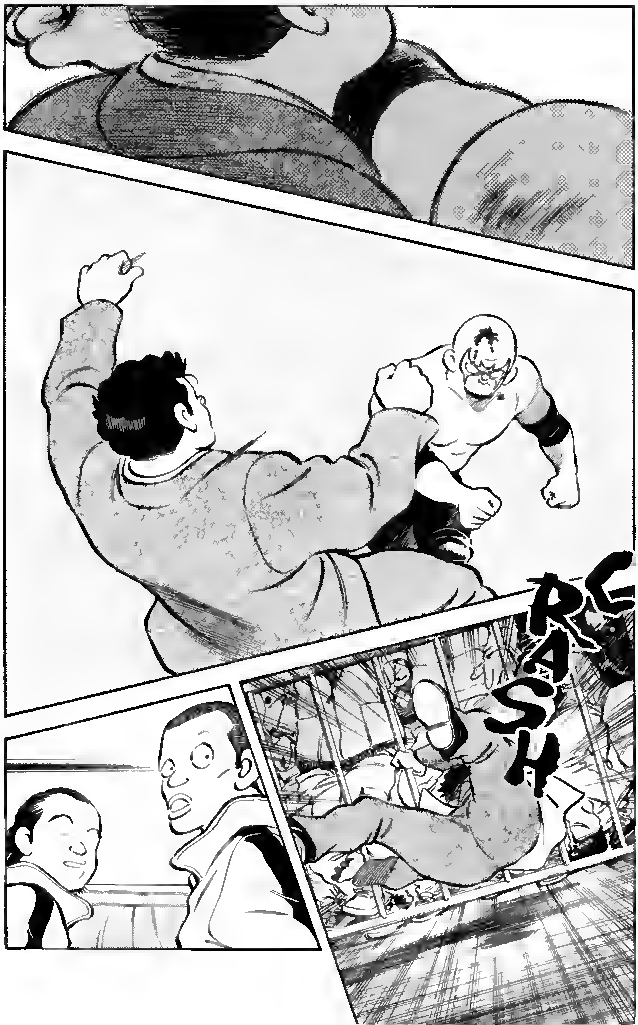



a grown-up doesn't fight.
I made excuses to myself, saying,

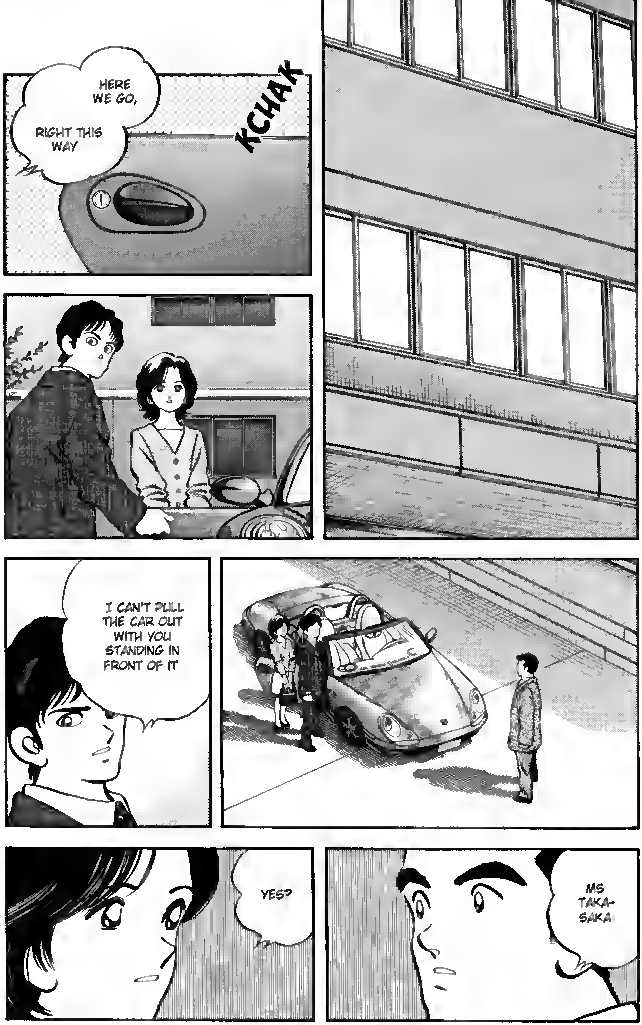

And I grew apart from him...
I have to be an adult...

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG




RG
ASH!

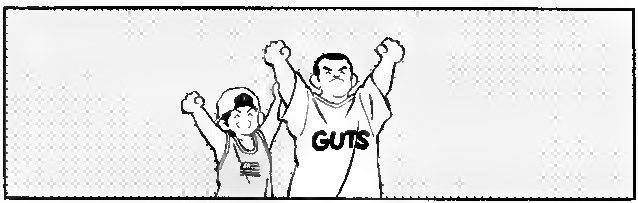

NO, I'VE KNOWN HIM... FOR YEARS...
HE'D NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?!
ARE-
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HUH?
HE ALWAYS KNEW...
THAT I WOULD COME HERE TO GET BEAT UP, SOMETIME...


HERE WE GO, RIGHT THIS WAY
KCHAK
I CAN'T PULL THE CAR OUT WITH YOU STANDING IN FRONT OF IT
YES?
MS TAKA-SAKA


YES, I KNOW
TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY!
OHMURA'S TEMPURA UDON IS AVAILABLE UNTIL 8
WE CAN STILL MAKE IT IF WE LEAVE NOW
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
K-KAMI-SATO!



THWOCK

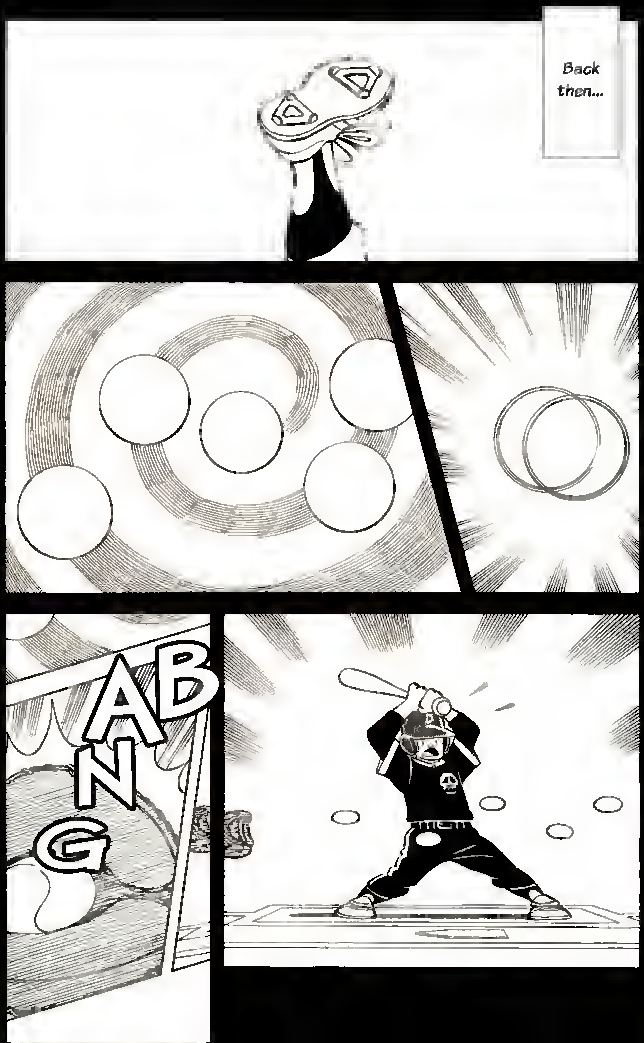


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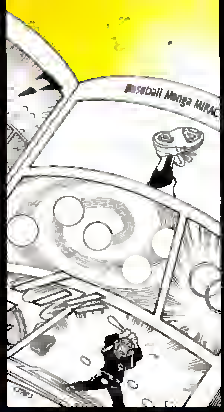


CHAPTER 4

SKY-BLUE ARCH


Back then...
BANG

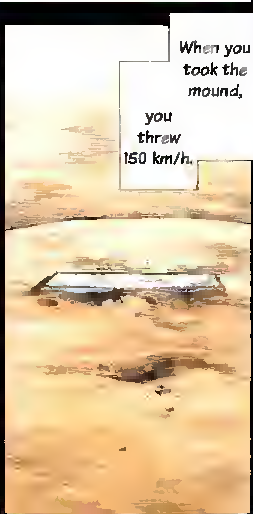




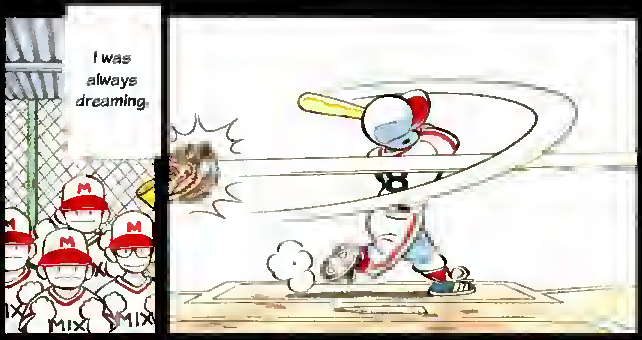








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Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pat



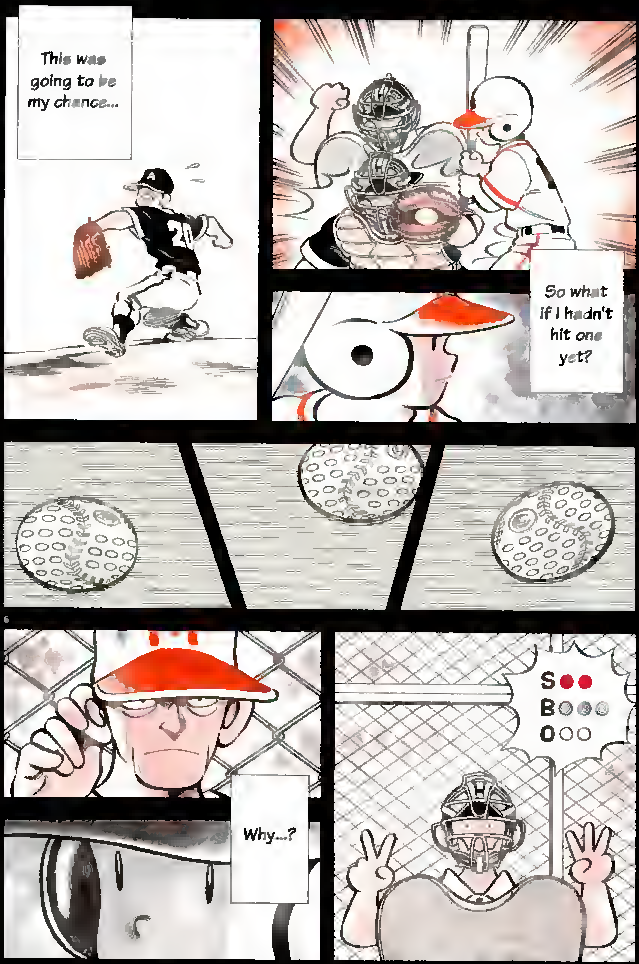
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Vitamin A	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		
Mix	0	0	0	0	0	1			



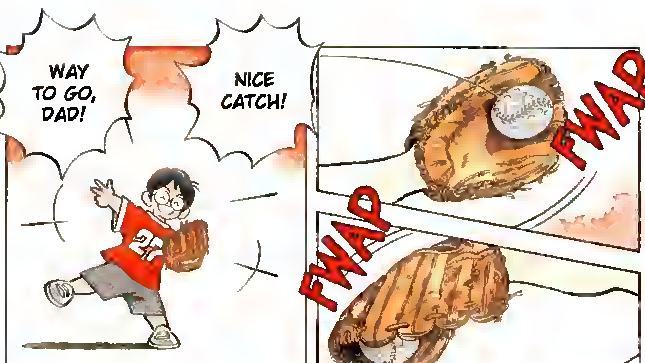




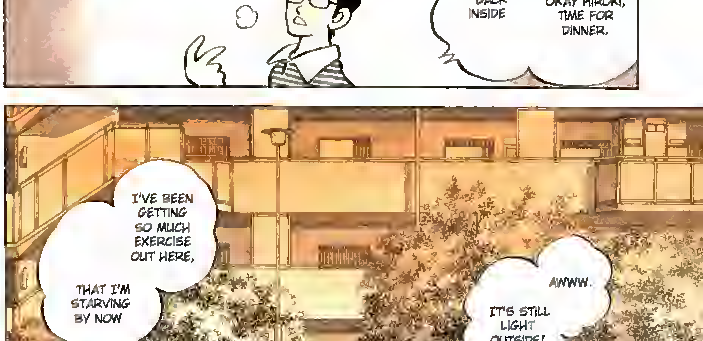

M
S
B
O
At any time.
MIX
Why don't the grown-ups believe in me!


This was going to be my chance...
So what if I hadn't hit one yet?
S●●
B●●●
O○○
Why...?


M
Why...?


WAY TO GO, DAD!
NICE CATCH!
FWAP
FWAP


BACK INSIDE
OKAY HIROKI, TIME FOR DINNER.


I'VE BEEN GETTING SO MUCH EXERCISE OUT HERE,
THAT I'M STARVING BY NOW
AWWW.
IT'S STILL LIGHT OUTSIDE!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
307
SAKURAGIMARU
NO TALENT...
I'VE BEEN PLAYING CATCH WITH HIM SINCE HE WAS IN KINDERGARTEN,
BUT HE JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER AT IT
BUT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HE LOVES BASEBALL
ZZZ
IS HE STILL PLAYING ON THAT LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM?
OH, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HIROKI?
THUMP
HIROKI


POOR GUY OUGHTA FIND A NEW HOBBY, I THINK
BESIDES, WITH THAT COACH AT THE HELM ...
ARE YOU KIDDING? WITH HOW BUSY I AM AT WORK THESE DAYS?
WHY DON'T YOU GO WATCH ONE OF HIS GAMES?
HE SURE IS
IT WAS THE TRUTH
WASN'T BRAG-GING
ONCE YOU SAID IT ENOUGH, HE TOOK IT SERIOUSLY
"DADDY WAS THE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER!"
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU BRAGGED ABOUT IT
IN GRADE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
BUT YOU ONLY PLAYED BASEBALL
THERE'S ONLY A TINY NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE A LIVING OUT OF BASEBALL
YOU KNOW HOW IMPOR-TANT YOUR TIME IS AT THAT POINT IN YOUR LIFE?
IF I PLAYED IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL, I'D HAVE TO BE STILL PLAYING NOW
ARE YOU KIDDING?


THAT'S HOW I'M THE BUSINESS MANAGER AT MY AGE.
SWAP
I WAS ALWAYS THE TYPE TO CALMLY ASSESS MY FUTURE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION
IT'S BASICALLY JUST A WASTE OF YOUR LIFE OTHERWISE
YOU MEAN HIROKI'S COACH?
SOMEHOW I FIND MYSELF COMING INTO CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO IS WASTING THEIR LIFE AGAIN
AND YET...
tick
tick
IS THAT TRUE, COACH?


B
WERE YOU REALLY ON THE SAME TEAM AS MY DAD?
IT'S THE TRUTH
ALSO...
UM... NEVER MIND.

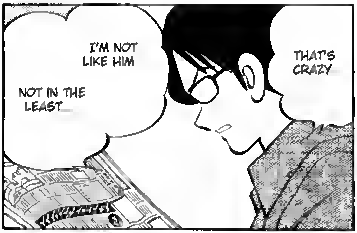

UH... WELL... ACTU-ALLY...
THAT'S THE TRUTH, TOO
HUH?
YOUR DAD TOLD YOU MORE THAN THAT, DIDN'T HE?
LIKE, HOW I WAS THE WORST PLAYER ON THE TEAM

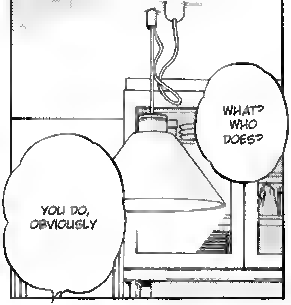

GIVEN THE PERCENTAGE OF TIMES I EVEN MADE CONTACT, MUCH LESS GOT A HIT, I DON'T BLAME THE COACH
OF COURSE,
I WAS A REAL SMALL KID SO WHEN THEY HAD A WILD PITCHER
IN MY CASE, I BARELY EVER GOT THE CHANCE TO SWING THE BAT
I'D BE GOING UP THERE TO GET A WALK
JUST LIKE ME HUH?
YOU'LL BE JUST AS GOOD AS HIM
YOUR DAD WAS THE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER, HIROKI
NOT BY A LONG SHOT
ALL I CAN BRAG ABOUT IS MY REFUSAL TO TAKE THE HINT
AND EVEN THEN, ONLY IN MY FINAL YEAR.
I ONLY GOT TO PLAY REGULARLY ONCE I WAS IN COLLEGE
I WAS ON THE BENCH ALL THROUGH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

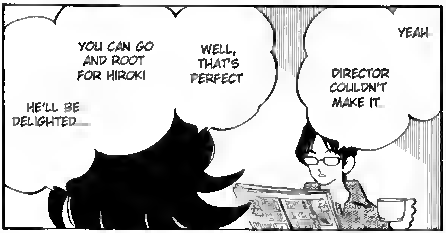

BRING ME SOME WORTHWHILE DATA!
I NEED CONVINCING PROOF THAT THIS PRODUCT IS GOING TO SELL!
SUZUKHAN
YOU IDIOT!
THIS ISN'T THE LOTTERY, DUNCE!
hmmm
SAKURA-GIMARU
OH, MR. DIRECTOR
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH A HIT?
SMACK
BUT MR. MANAGER,
IF WE PASS UP THIS PERFECT TIMING, OUR HOME RUN COULD END UP AS JUST A HIT
I WANT PERCENT-AGE!
BATTING AVERAGE IS BETTER THAN THE ONE BIG BLAST!

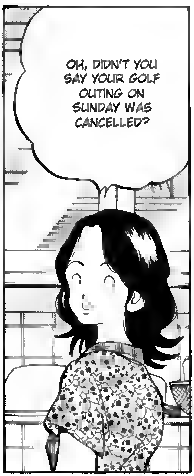

YOU BEAT OUT ALL THOSE LONG-DRIVERS AT THE RANGE...
YOU'RE A BEAST AT THE TEE, SIR
I ALSO HEARD ABOUT YOUR RECENT DRIVING CONTEST!
ABOUT THE DEAL NEXT SUNDAY...
1 3 4 5 6
YES SIR, I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE
SIR?
I'M AFRAID SOMETHING'S COME UP AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND. HOW ABOUT SOME OTHER TIME?
YES, THE GOLFING WAS WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT
YOUR GRAND-SON'S GAME?
I'M GOING TO GO AND ROOT FOR HIM, 9 O'CLOCK SUNDAY MORNING...
I COMPLETELY FORGOT THAT MY GRANDSON HAD A GAME COMING UP!
ACE AND CLEAN-UP HITTER...
HE'S THE ACE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER FOR HIS TEAM.
BASEBALL!
WHAT DOES HE PLAY, SOCCER?

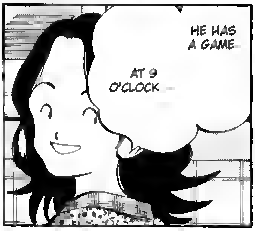

KING
A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK HE MUST BE!
WHY, I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANY LESS!
ER,
HMM?
YOUR MOTHER STOPPED BY DURING THE DAY TODAY
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
DIDN'T HE ...?
YOUR FATHER DIED WHEN YOU WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
FSHHH
EVERY PASSING DAY
SHE SAYS THE RESEMBLANCE TO YOUR FATHER GROWS,
MOM WAS HERE?


I'M NOT LIKE HIM
NOT IN THE LEAST...
THAT'S CRAZY

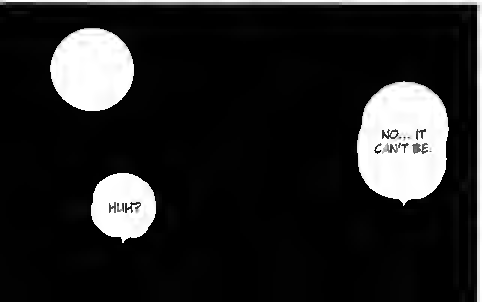

WHAT? WHO DOES?
YOU DO, OBVIOUSLY

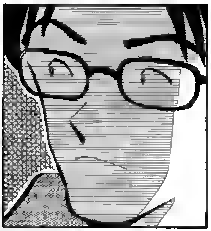

YOU CAN GO AND ROOT FOR HIROKI
HE'LL BE DELIGHTED...
WELL, THAT'S PERFECT
YEAH
DIRECTOR COULDN'T MAKE IT...


OH, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR GOLF OUTING ON SUNDAY WAS CANCELLED?


HE HAS A GAME...
AT 9 O'CLOCK...


ROOT FOR HIM?


NO... IT CAN'T BE.
HUH?

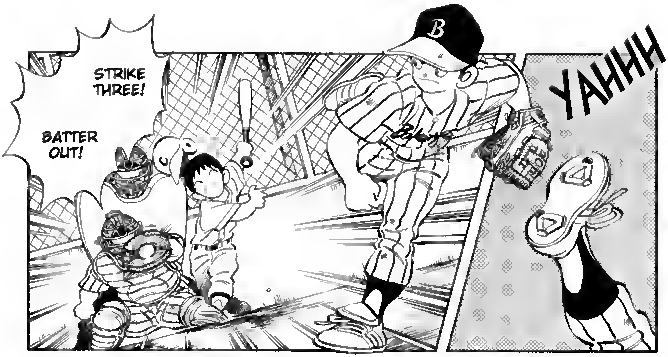



Sun-
day
YAHHH
YAHHH

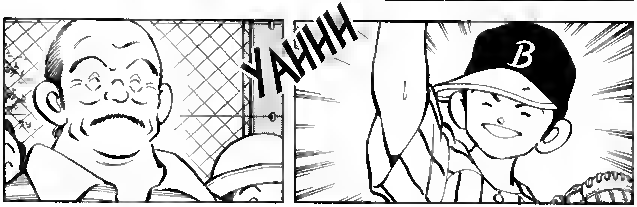

...NOT on the bench?
I mean, my son is...
nothing to worry about...
Well,
...Crap!
HIT IT RIGHT TO ME!
FWAP
FWAP
HEY, BATTER BATTER!
RIGHTFIELDER
W-WHY IS MY SON IN THE STARTING LINEUP?!
HEY, SAKURAGI-MARU!
NICE TO SEE YA
M, MURA-YAMA.
CLANG
OH
WELL, WE'VE HAD A LOT OF KIDS GET HURT OR SICK RECENTLY


OUT!
WHEW
NACC
USA
...Crap!
NACC
USA
IT'S TO RIGHT!
I GOT IT, I GOT IT!
YAHHH
NICE PLAY, HIROKI!
THANK GOD...
HUH?
YOUR LAST NAME'S TOO LONG TO SAY
YOU CALL HIM BY HIS FIRST NAME?

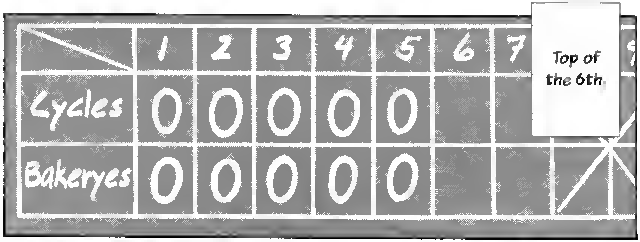

WHIFF
Two outs, runners on 1st and 3rd...
BATTER OUT!
YAHHH
Two outs, runners on 2nd and 3rd...
WHIFF
BATTER OUT!
twitch

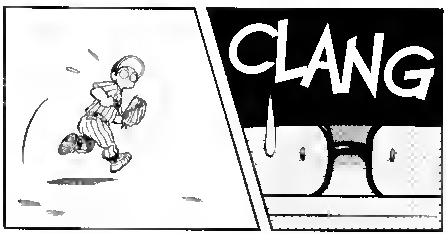

STRIKE THREE!
BATTER OUT!
YAHHH

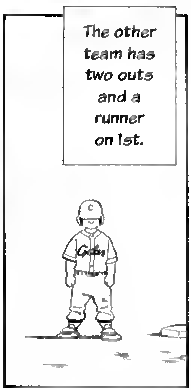

YEAH
ONLY ONE HIT SO FAR.
DOESN'T HE?
OUR PITCHER'S GOT A WICKED FASTBALL.


YAHHH


WHIFF
WE'RE GETTING RUNNERS ON BASE EVERY INNING
GIVE HIM SOME RUNS ALREADY

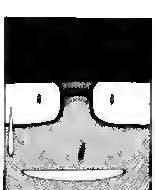

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Cycles 0 0 0 0 0
Bakeryes 0 0 0 0 0
Top of the 6th


CLANG

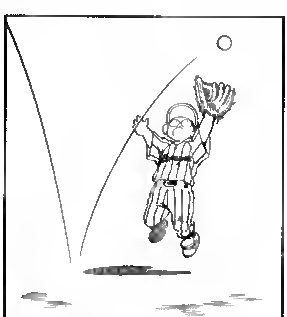

The other team has two outs and a runner on 1st.


YOU'RE TOO FAR BACK, YOU IDIOT!

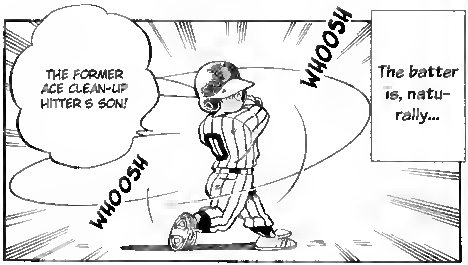

YAHHH



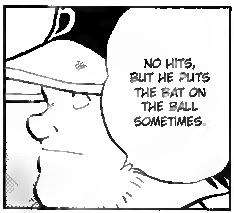

THAT RUNNER'S FAST, TOO

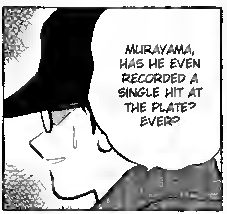



YAHHH
DO YOU THINK SAKURAGI-MARU IS A RARE LAST NAME?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER KNOWN
RIGHT
Last inning...
With two outs...
One more!
One more!
A hit,
a hit by pitch,
and a walk.



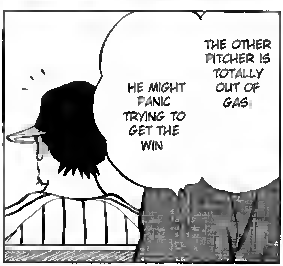
And now, with nowhere left to turn, when one hit wins the game...





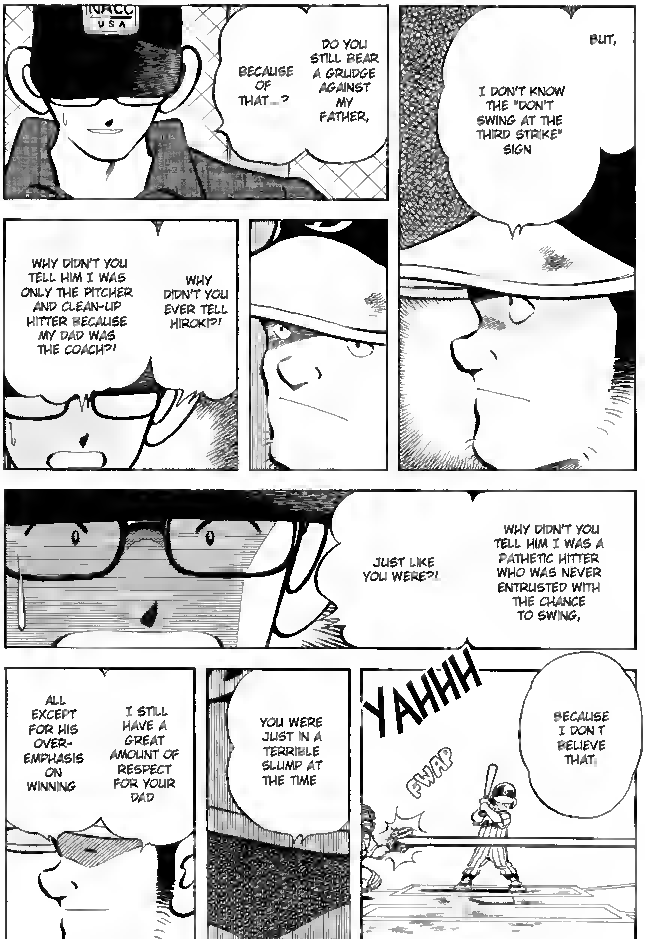






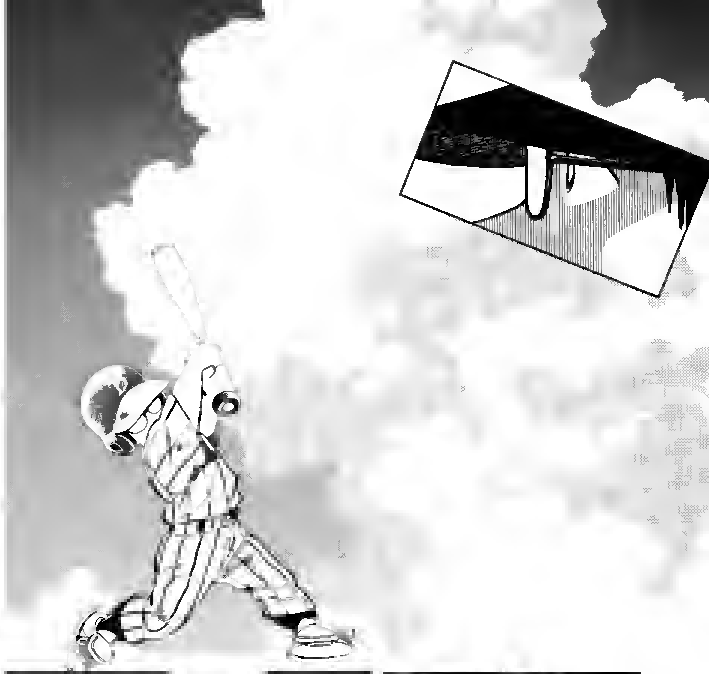
GIVE HIM THE "TAKE" SIGN UNTIL THERE ARE TWO STRIKES

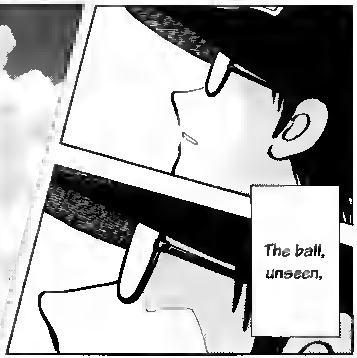



USA
DO YOU STILL BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST MY FATHER,
BECAUSE OF THAT...?
BUT,
I DON'T KNOW THE "DON'T SWING AT THE THIRD STRIKE" SIGN
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM I WAS ONLY THE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER BECAUSE MY DAD WAS THE COACH?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL HIROKI?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM I WAS A PATHETIC HITTER WHO WAS NEVER ENTRUSTED WITH THE CHANCE TO SWING,
JUST LIKE YOU WERE?!
ALL EXCEPT FOR HIS OVER-EMPHASIS ON WINNING
I STILL HAVE A GREAT AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR DAD
YOU WERE JUST IN A TERRIBLE SLUMP AT THE TIME
YAHHH
FWAP
BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.


WATCH ME!
I'M GONNA GET A HIT!
HEY DAAAD!
AND THEN THE BASTARD GETS HIMSELF MORTALLY SICK...
I SWORE THAT I WAS GOING TO PAY HIM BACK FOR THAT.
YAHHH
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?

27


disap-
peared far
beyond
the expan-
sive
cloude..


The ball,
unseen,


DIRECTOR
6 7 8 9 計
1 0 1
0 0 0
HELLO!
THIS IS MY SON
I'LL GET A HIT NEXT TIME!
I'M SORRY, MISTER.
BECAUSE OF YOU, MY GRANDSON WAS THE LOSING PITCHER
B



- Chapter 4 End -



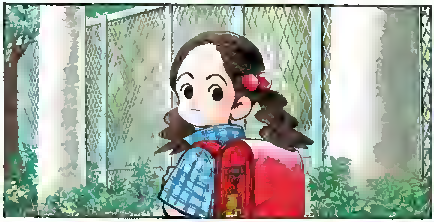
CHAPTER 5

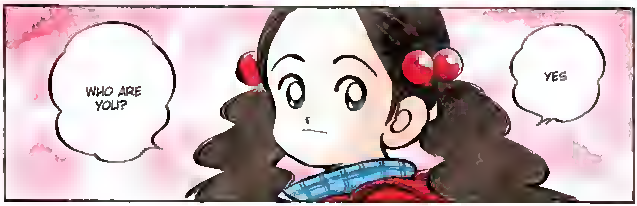
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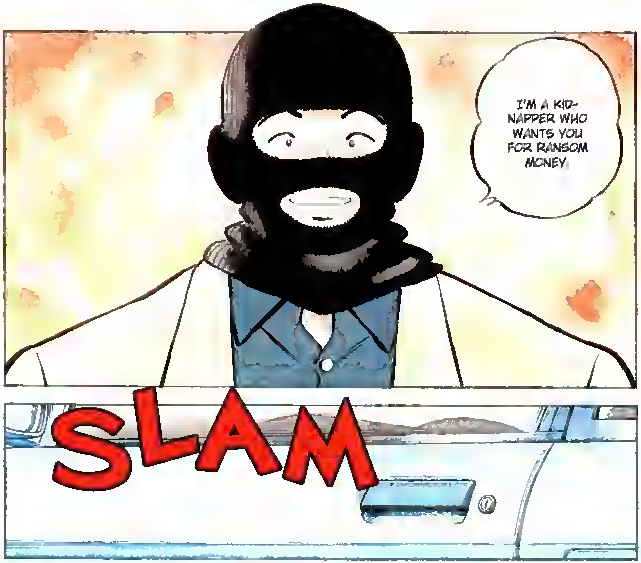
HELLO THERE

LITTLE MISS, YOUR FATHER IS THE PRESIDENT OF OKAMURA REALTY, ISN'T HE?

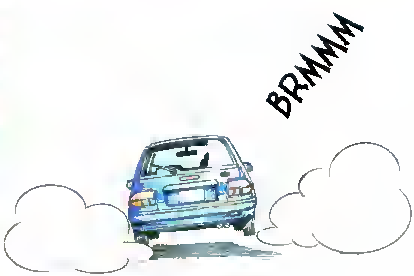


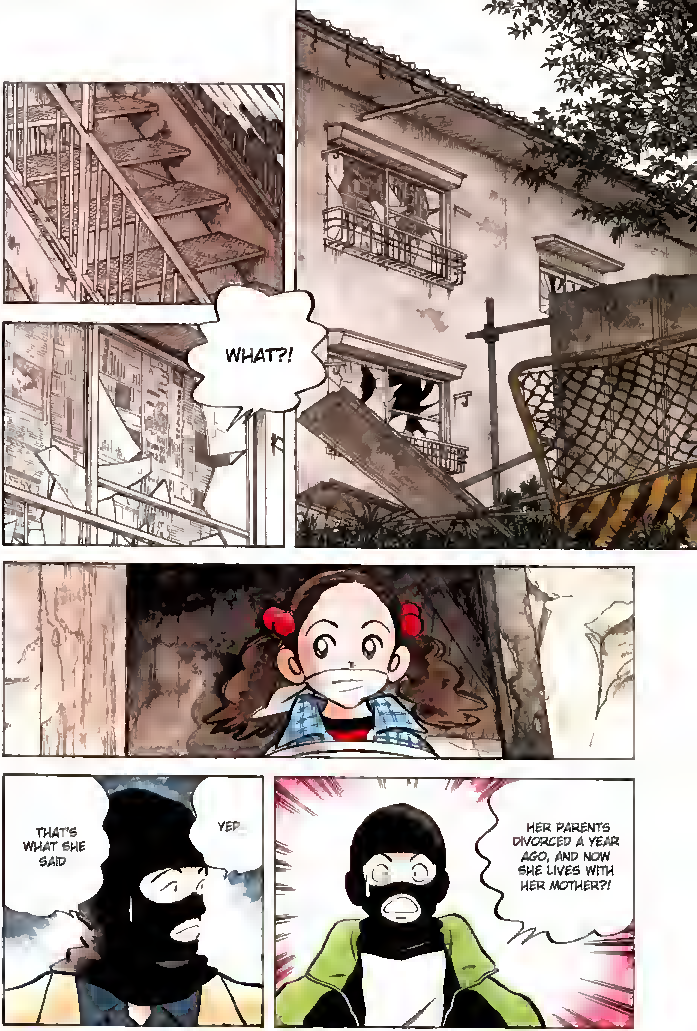


ME? WELL...

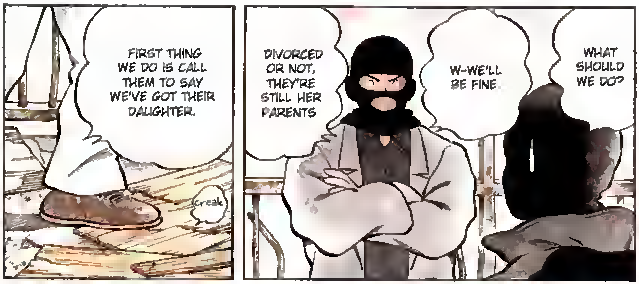

I'M A KID-NAPPER WHO WANTS YOU FOR RANSOM MONEY.
SLAM



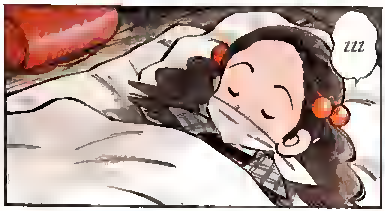

BRMMM



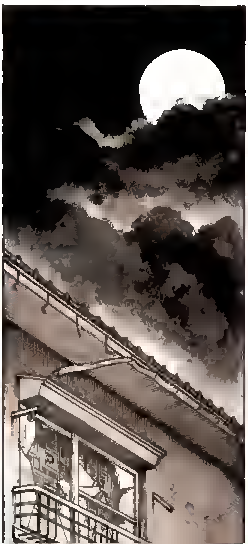
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Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pet

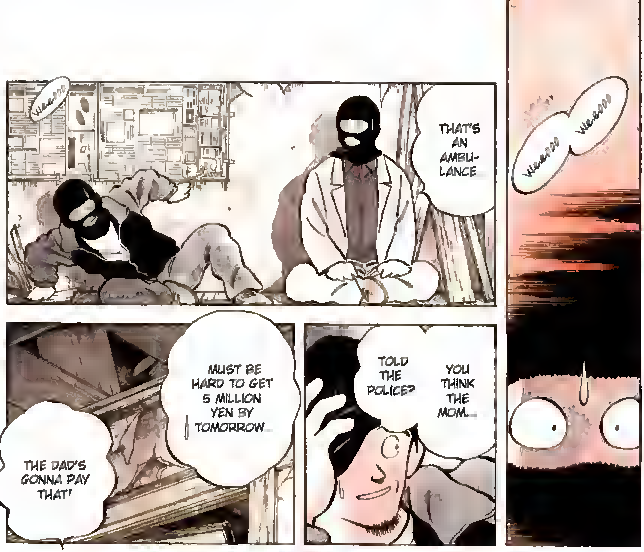

FIRST THING WE DO IS CALL THEM TO SAY WE'VE GOT THEIR DAUGHTER.
creak
DIVORCED OR NOT, THEY'RE STILL HER PARENTS
W-WE'LL BE FINE
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


UH, I GUESS?
beep
beep
DON'T WANT THEM WORRIED ABOUT HER BEING HOME LATE

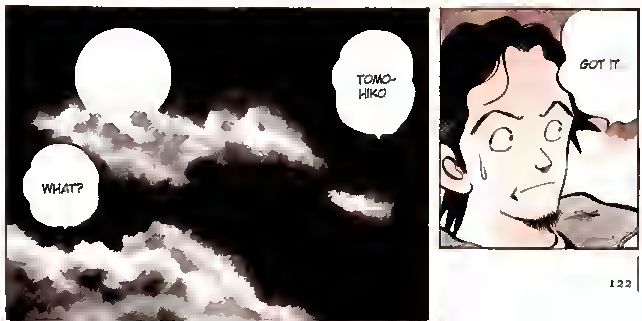

ZZZ



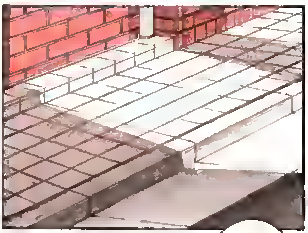



WEEOO
THAT'S AN AMBU-LANCE
WEEOO
WEEOO
MUST BE HARD TO GET 5 MILLION YEN BY TOMORROW
THE DAD'S GONNA PAY THAT!
TOLD THE POLICE?
YOU THINK THE MOM...


IF YOU SEE THE POLICE, THEN WE'LL KNOW SOME-THING'S UP
I'LL CALL HER AT A SPECIFIC TIME
TETSUO, TOMORROW YOU'RE GONNA GO AND KEEP WATCH ON HER MOM'S HOUSE


TOMO-HIKO
WHAT?
GOT IT

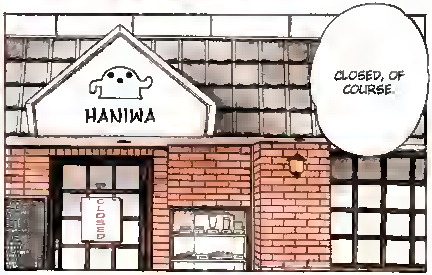

ZZZ
YOU IDIOT
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT HARD UP FOR MONEY, TOO
I'M REALLY SORRY, FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED IN ALL THIS...
HUH?
SAY, TETSUO
THIS GIRL...
NO, NOTHING
W-WHAT ABOUT HER?





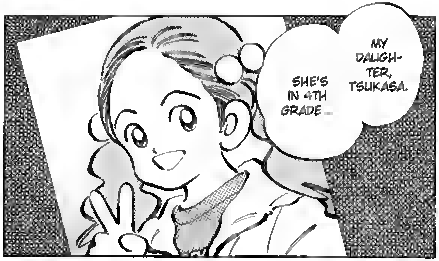

THE CAFE "HANIWA"?
HANIWA


THAT'S IT...

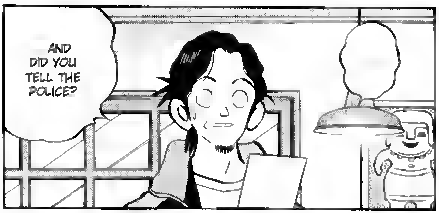

HANIWA
CLOSED
CLOSED, OF COURSE.

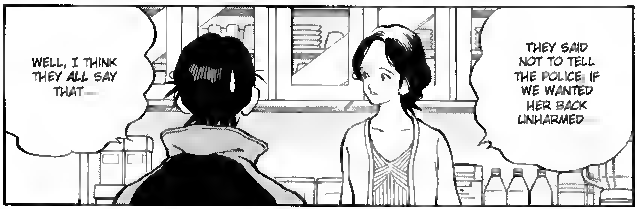

TETCHAN?!


TETSUO TADOKORO!
IS THAT YOU, TETCHAN?!
TET-CHAN?!
UH-
YOKO FUNAKI?!
HANIWA
CLANK
HUH?!
HUH?
HEY, COME WITH ME!

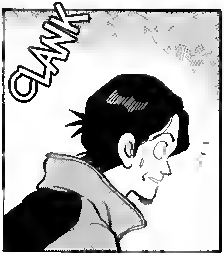

MY DAUGHTER, TSUKASA.
SHE'S IN 4TH GRADE—


K-KIDNAPPED?!

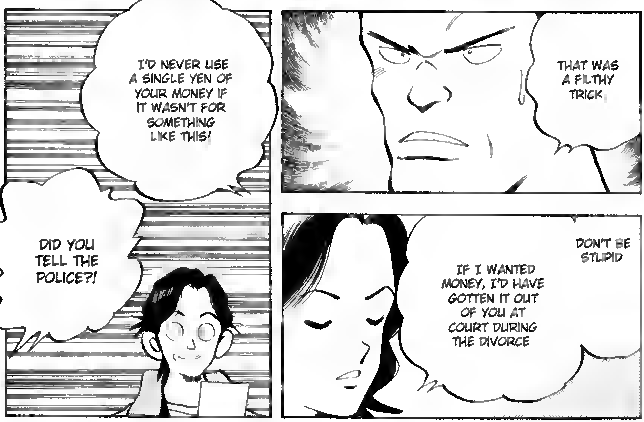

AND DID YOU TELL THE POLICE?

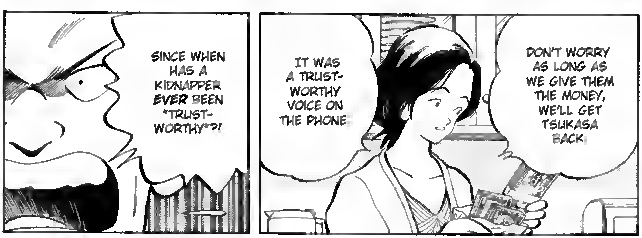

WELL, I THINK THEY ALL SAY THAT—
THEY SAID NOT TO TELL THE POLICE. IF WE WANTED HER BACK UNHARMED—




CLANK


THE "SECRET" COMPANY ACCOUNT BOOK THAT SOMEHOW GOT MIXED UP IN MY LUGGAGE
HERE YOU GO.
THUMP


I'D NEVER USE A SINGLE YEN OF YOUR MONEY IF IT WASN'T FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
DID YOU TELL THE POLICE?!
THAT WAS A FILTHY TRICK.
DON'T BE STUPID
IF I WANTED MONEY, I'D HAVE GOTTEN IT OUT OF YOU AT COURT DURING THE DIVORCE


SINCE WHEN HAS A KIDNAPPER EVER BEEN "TRUST-WORTHY"?!
IT WAS A TRUST-WORTHY VOICE ON THE PHONE
DON'T WORRY AS LONG AS WE GIVE THEM THE MONEY, WE'LL GET TSUKASA BACK.

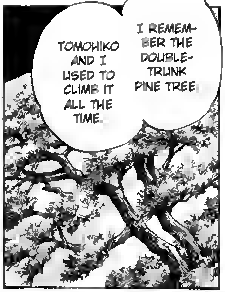

IF THIS THING TURNS PUBLIC,
AND THE KIDNAPPER ENDS UP BEING SOME BUSINESS PARTNER YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF,
WOULDN'T THAT MEAN BAD THINGS FOR YOUR COMPANY?
BY THE WAY, THIS IS MY EX-HUSBAND, THE PRESIDENT OF OKAMURA REALTY.
WHO THE HELL IS THAT?
AN OLD GRADE SCHOOL CLASSMATE.
YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL ME HE'S SOME OLD FLAME OF YOURS
Huh?
JUST DON'T GET ME INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS CRAP!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
Uh, darn...

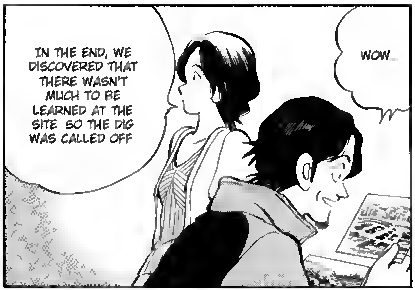

3 MILLION YEN?
SLAM
AND THAT IDIOTIC KIDNAPPER
WHAT KIND OF CHEAP MORON ONLY ASKS FOR 3 MILLION YEN?!
THEN...
WHY DID YOU MARRY HIM?
I WANTED TO KEEP THE MONEY I BORROWED FROM THAT CREEP TO A MINIMUM.
I MANAGED TO SCRAPE THE OTHER 2 MILLION TOGETHER FROM HERE AND THERE
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THE RANSOM WAS 5 MILLION?
I WAS DESPERATE AND TIRED OF WAITING FOR MY PRINCE
IT WAS ONCE— I HAD ALREADY PASSED 30
PLONG PLING
UH... PRINCE?

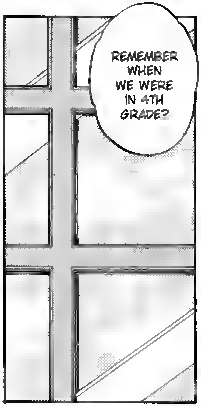

W-WHATEVER.
IS THE MONEY READY?
YES I MANAGED...
AND YOU HAVEN'T TOLD THE POLICE?
NO
CLASS-MATE?
I JUST RAN INTO HIM ON THE STREET...
THAT'S MY DAUGHTER'S CELL-PHONE RING-TONE.
IT'S FROM THE KIDNAPPER!
P.P.
OH,
JUST AN OLD GRADE SCHOOL CLASS-MATE...
IS THERE ANYONE WITH YOU?
RIGHT
BRING IT TO THE ENTRANCE OF ISHIKAWA PARK'S PARKING LOT IN ONE HOUR.
It might be too dangerous for you..
Should I bring it to him?
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE MONEY?
BUT IT HAS TO BE JUST ONE PERSON!
ANYONE, I DON'T CARE!
THE ONE I JUST MET ON THE STREET...
DO YOU MIND IF IT'S MY OLD CLASSMATE WHO BRINGS THE MONEY?
OH,

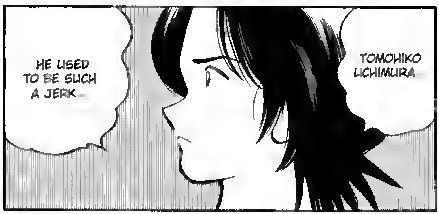

U-UMM...
COULD I HEAR MY DAUGHTER'S VOICE?
ALL RIGHT, JUST A MOM-
HEY, STOP!
HELLO
MAMA?
peep
peep
peep
REMEMBER TO RECORD "INU YATCHAN" AT 7 O'CLOCK TONIGHT
BYE BYE! ♡
W-WHAT'S WRONG?
AH!
DON'T JUST HANG UP LIKE THAT!
KEY-HOLDER?
MY KEYHOLDER THAT WAS ON MY BACKPACK IS GONE...

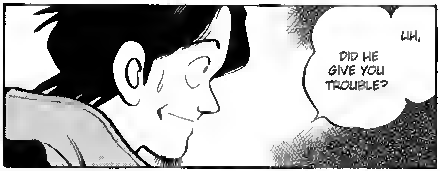

AN ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP?
HANIWA
YES, WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE...
CLOSED
IN MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT COLLEGE, THEY DISCOVERED SOME RUINS UNDER THE GROUND. SO WE WENT ON AN EXCAVATION TRIP BACK HERE
THAT WAS A LOT OF FUN
LOOK AT THIS PICTURE
YEAH! I DO
REMEMBER IT?
IT'S THE HILL BEHIND OUR SCHOOL

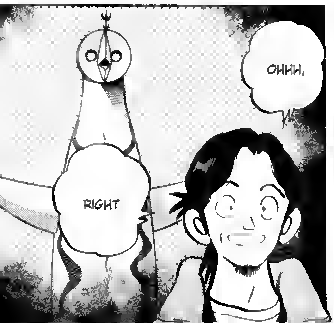

I REMEMBER THE DOUBLE-TRUNK PINE TREE.
TOMOHIKO AND I USED TO CLIMB IT ALL THE TIME.


IN THE END, WE DISCOVERED THAT THERE WASN'T MUCH TO BE LEARNED AT THE SITE SO THE DIG WAS CALLED OFF
WOW...


REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE IN 4TH GRADE?


HE USED TO BE SUCH A JERK...
TOMOHIKO ICHIMURA...

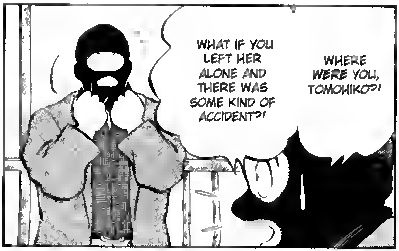

UH, DID HE GIVE YOU TROUBLE?


OHHH,
RIGHT

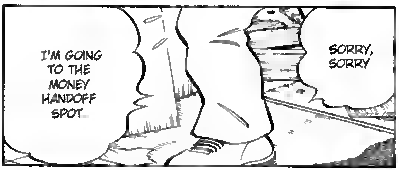

THEY HELD THE EXPO.
WHAT HAP-PENED THEN?


OH... NO LUCK
I'VE SENT IT AROUND TO PUBLISHERS AND CONTESTS, BUT NO CIGAR
GUESS IT'LL ALWAYS BE A HOBBY
OH,
WELL, NOTHING REALLY...
ME?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW, TETCHAN?
HOW'S YOUR NOVEL COMING ALONG?!
OH,
THEN TAKE THIS
OOPS,
TIME TO GET GOING
FUNAKI


GOOD
I'M SURE TSUKASA WILL COME BACK TO YOU SAFE AND SOUND.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
clank
H-
HUH?
CLANG
CLANG


WHERE WERE YOU, TOMOHIKO?!
WHAT IF YOU LEFT HER ALONE AND THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT?!




SORRY, SORRY
I'M GOING TO THE MONEY HANDOFF SPOT...

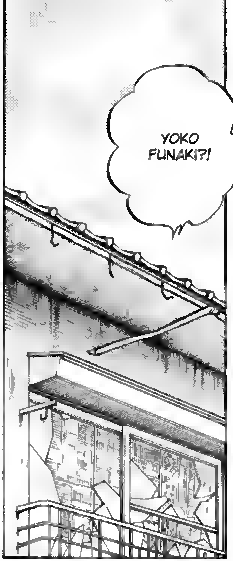



HUH


HUH?


rustle

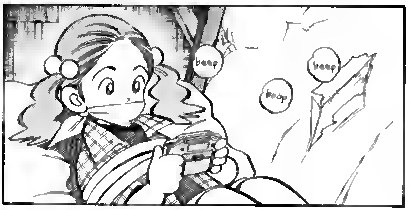

THEN,
THE OLD SCHOOL CLASSMATE SHE RAN INTO WAS...
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE ONE YOU ALWAYS MADE CRY.

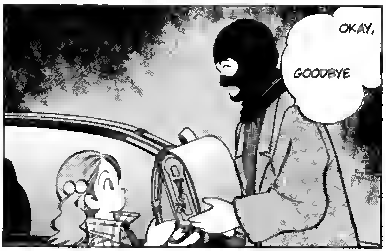

YOKO FUNAKI?!


IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.

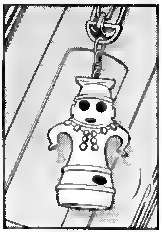


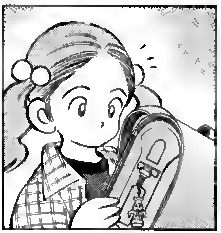

I THOUGHT THAT GIRL LOOKED FAMILIAR, FOR SOME REASON...

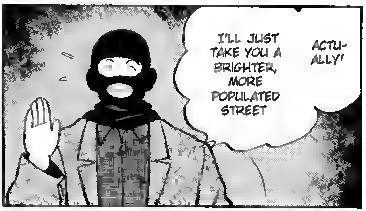

beep
beep
Beep!


OKAY,
GOODBYE


SCREEE





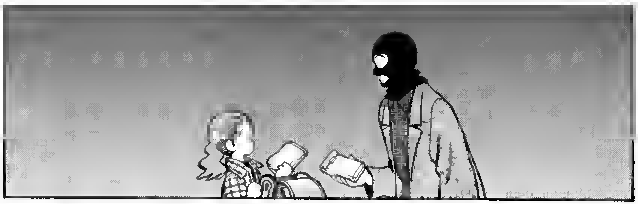

I'LL JUST TAKE YOU A BRIGHTER, MORE POPULATED STREET
ACTUALLY!

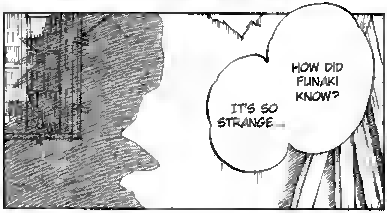


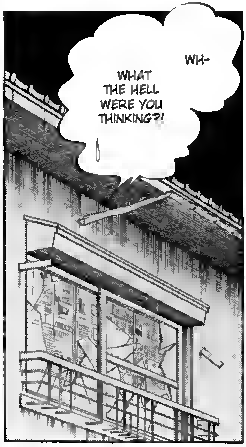

DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST DOWN THE STREET


YOU LOOK TOO SUSPICIOUS


COME ON PAPA, THIS WAY!
WHEWW
THE OTHER MAN GAVE ME SOME, TOO!
HERE, GIVE THIS TO YOUR MOMMY.



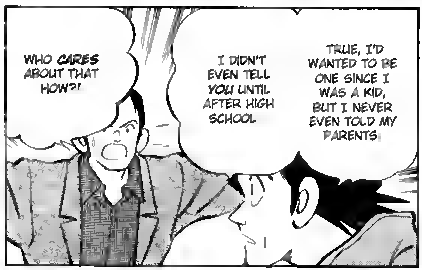

HOW DID FUNAKI KNOW?
IT'S SO STRANGE...


WH-
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!


THAT I WANTED TO BE A WRITER...

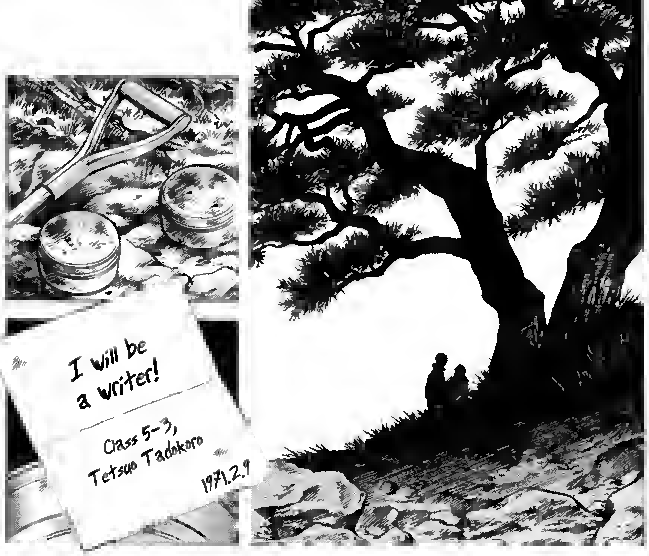

ABOUT WHAT?

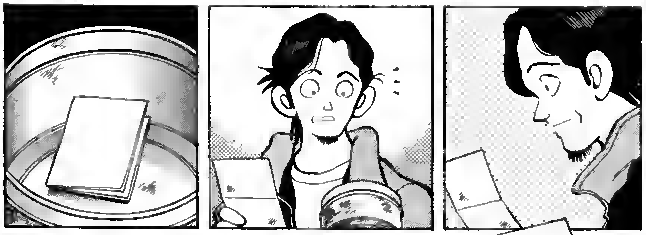

I DON'T NEED THE MONEY,
BUT YOU DO, OR ELSE THEY'LL KILL YOU!

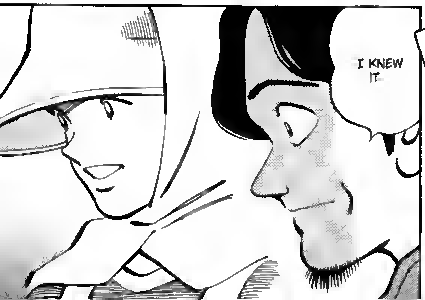

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT HOW?!
I DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU UNTIL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
TRUE, I'D WANTED TO BE ONE SINCE I WAS A KID, BUT I NEVER EVEN TOLD MY PARENTS


IF THEY KILLED EVERYONE WHO BORROWED MONEY FROM THEM, THEY'D NEVER GET ANY BUSINESS
YEAH, BUT THEY ALWAYS SAY THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, OR BURY YOU, OR SINK YOU IN THE OCEAN
KILL
BURY?
IT'S THE HILL BEHIND OUR SCHOOL REMEMBER IT?
HUH?
IN MY SOPHO-MORE YEAR AT COLLEGE THEY DISCOVERED SOME RUINS UNDER THE GROUND,
SO WE WENT ON AN EXCAVATION TRIP BACK HERE
WE BURIED IT
BURIED WHAT?
IN 5TH GRADE

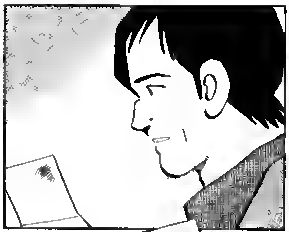

THE EXPO WAS THE YEAR BEFORE
REMEMBER HOW EVERYONE WANTED TO DO THAT THING YOU'D DIG UP YEARS AND YEARS LATER?
A TIME CAPSULE?
YEAH
WE WROTE OUR DREAMS ON A PIECE OF PAPER,
AND BURIED THEM UNDER THE DOUBLE-TRUNK PINE TREE ON THE HILL BEHIND THE SCHOOL


I will be a writer!
Class 5-3, Tetsuo Tadokoro
1971.2.9




I KNEW IT.


Good luck, Tetchan!
Yoko Funaki
1990 7.10





I will marry Yoko Funaki!

Class 4-3,
Tomohiko Uchimura

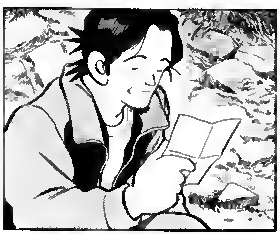
1971.2.9

Thank you Tomo, I love you too ♡

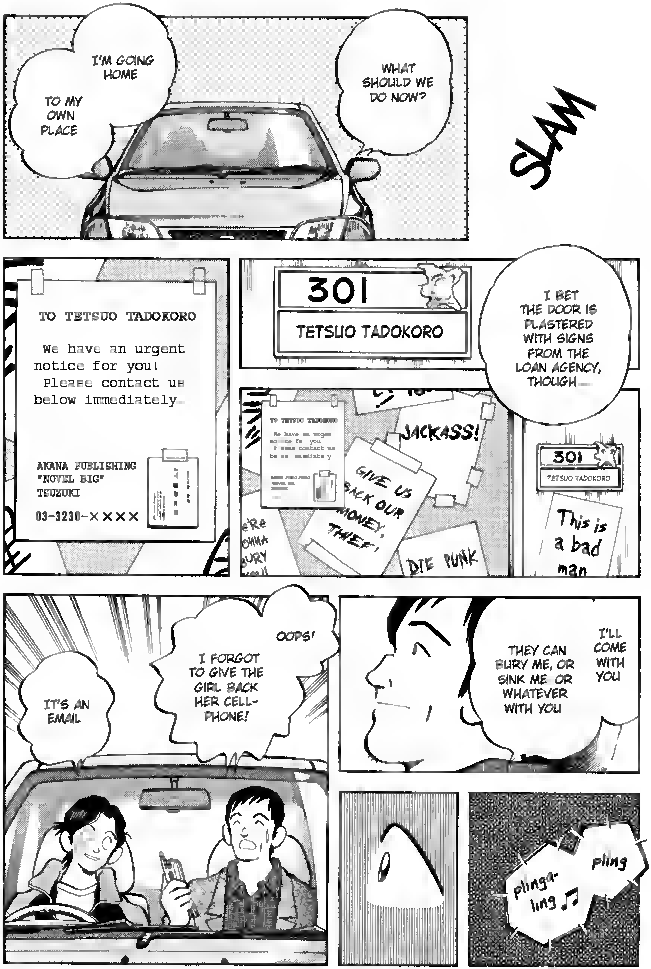
Come and marry me before I'm 30!

1980 7 10

Yoko Funaki






I'M GOING HOME TO MY OWN PLACE
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
SLAM
TO TETSUO TADOKORO
We have an urgent notice for you! Please contact us below immediately.
AKANA PUBLISHING "NOVEL BIG" TSUZUKI
03-3230-×××
301
TETSUO TADOKORO
I BET THE DOOR IS PLASTERED WITH SIGNS FROM THE LOAN AGENCY, THOUGH...
JACKASS!
GIVE US BACK OUR MONEY, THIEF!
DIE PUNK
This is a bad man
IT'S AN EMAIL
OOPS!
I FORGOT TO GIVE THE GIRL BACK HER CELL-PHONE!
THEY CAN BURY ME, OR SINK ME OR WHATEVER WITH YOU
I'LL COME WITH YOU
pling
plinga-ling



- Chapter 5 End -





CHAPTER 6

THE STAIRS OF TIME


THE PHANTOM THIEF ATATAME ARRIVES!
LEAP


That, of course, is my thieves' name.
My real name is Renji Hayakawa.
"Renji," which also means "microwave."
Phantom thief, "kaito," also sounds like "frozen."
IT'S ALL ONE BIG FUN.
AND "ATATAME" MEANS HEAT UP.
LUCKY ME! ♡
SHH...
If I wasn't, my life would have ended 30 years ago...
Yes...
I am lucky, all right.


The day that my father tried to escape his debts forever,
taking me with him...
When I regained consciousness a month later, I found clutched in my hand...
A guardian spirit...
My memories before the crash never came back,
but I miraculously survived, thanks to this trinket.

In comparison, my father was fatally unlucky.

If he had been able to resist committing suicide for just a few hours, he could have set the company aright...

From what I heard later, about the instant his car plunged off that cliff, an enormous order was placed with his company

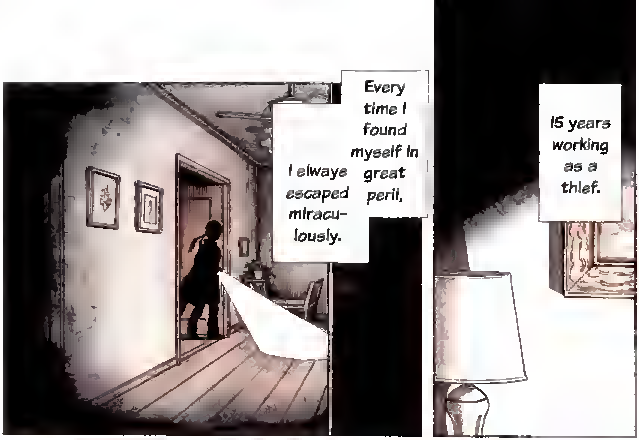


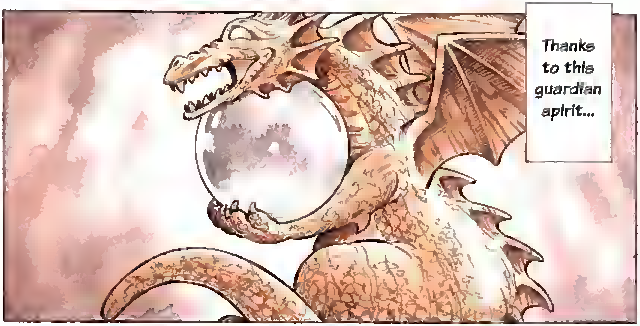
Now eternally alone, I was placed in an orphanage.

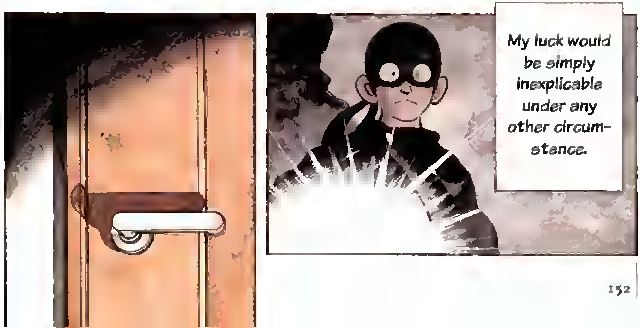
I'll leave the rest of my life to your imagination...

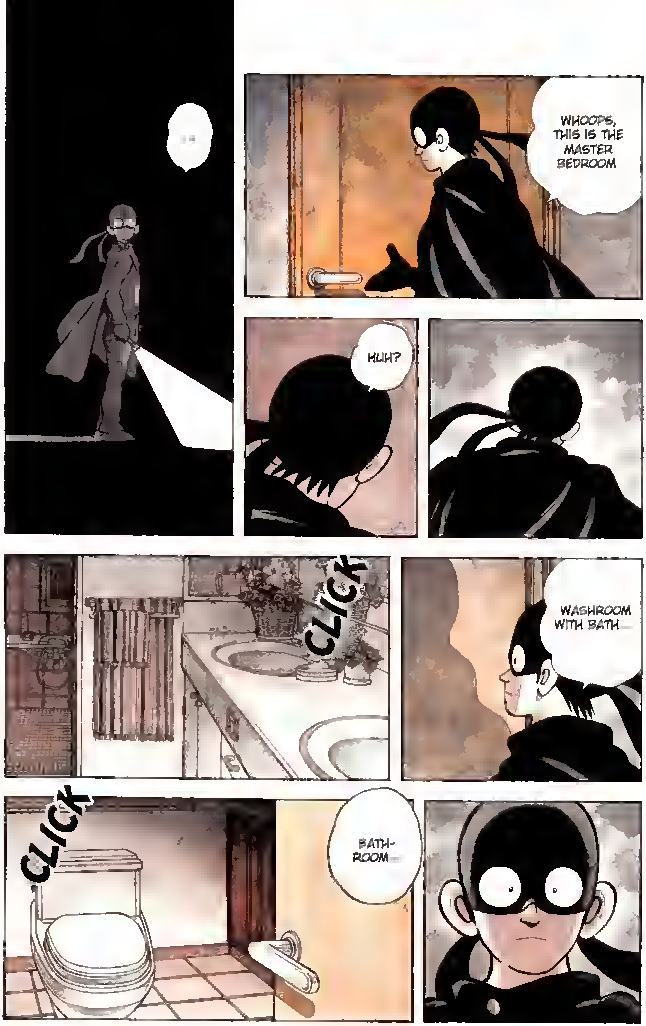
The only thing you need to know is that in everything I did, mostly wicked of course,

I never failed. Not once.

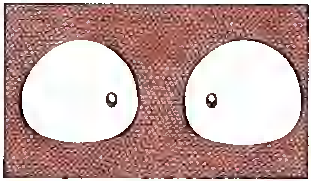

Every time I found myself in great peril,
I alwaye escaped miracu-lously.
15 years working as a thief.

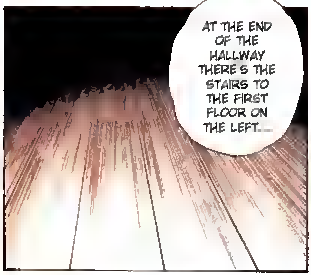

Thanks to this guardian spirit...

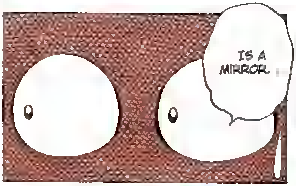

My luck would be simply inexplicable under any other circum-stance.


WHOOPS, THIS IS THE MASTER BEDROOM
HUH?
CLICK
WASHROOM WITH BATH...
CLICK
BATH-ROOM...

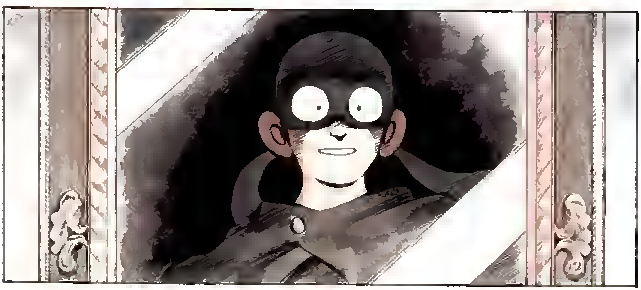




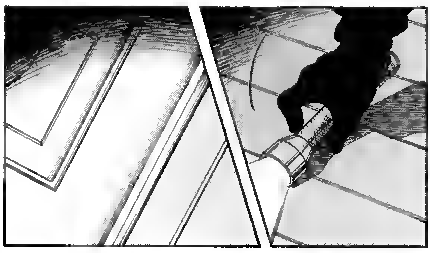

AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY THERE'S THE STAIRS TO THE FIRST FLOOR ON THE LEFT...


IS A MIRROR.

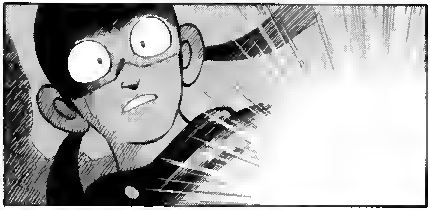

AND,
ON THE WALL TO THE RIGHT...



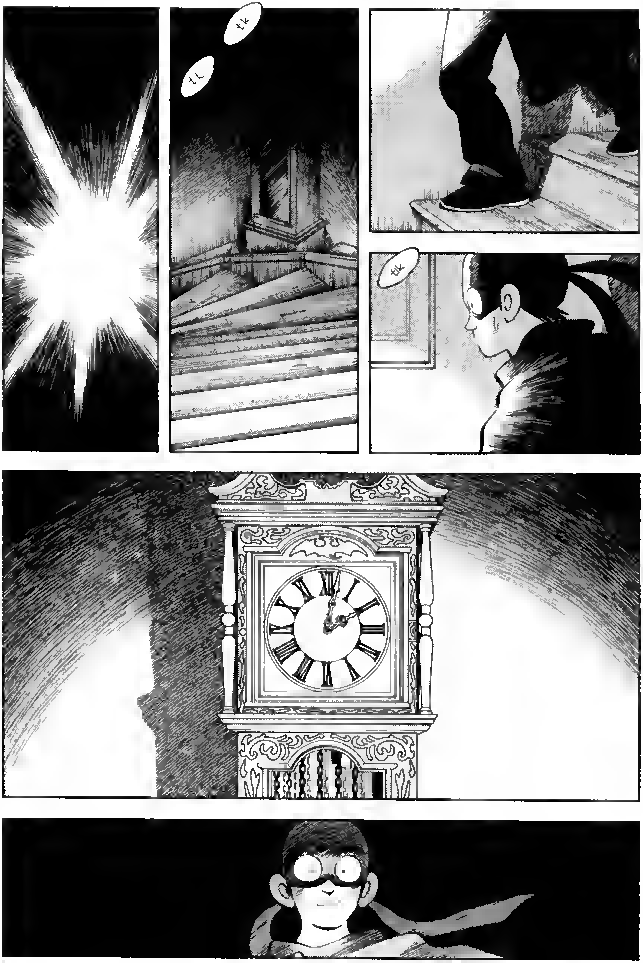

BNGGGGG
THUNK
EEEK!
BNGGGGG

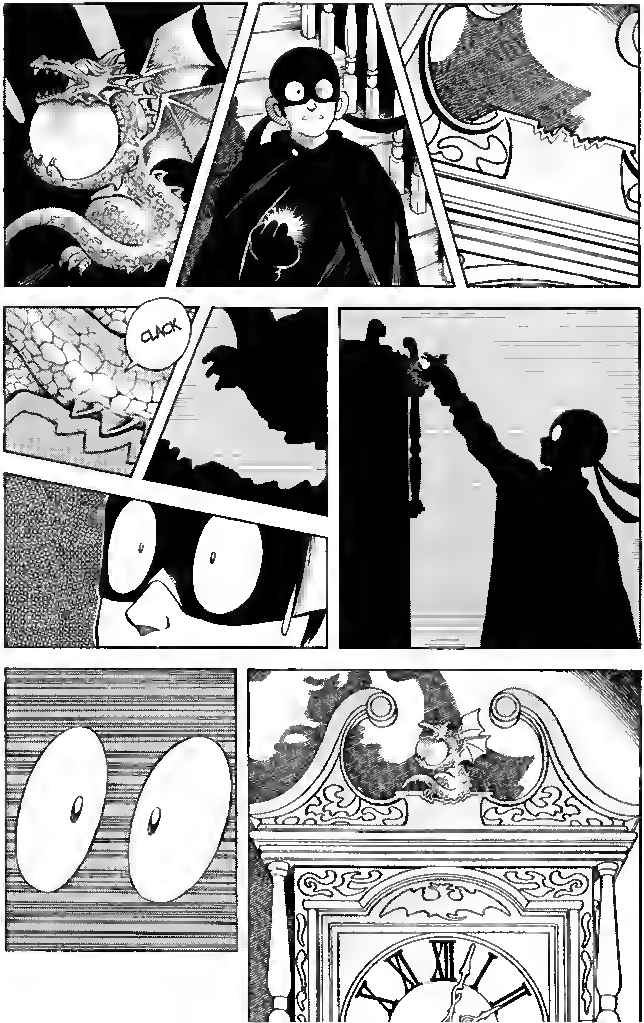


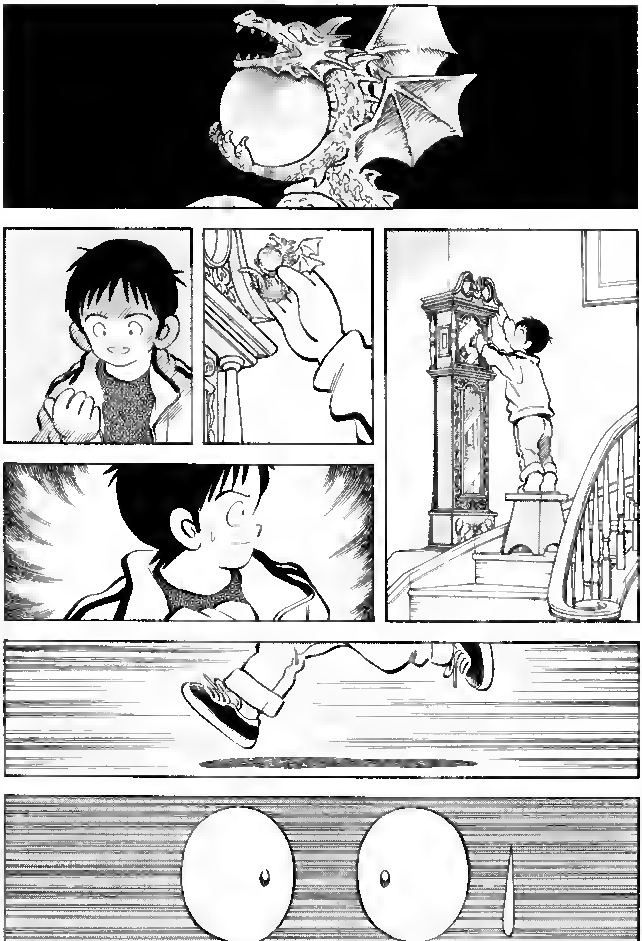

TAK
TAK
TAK

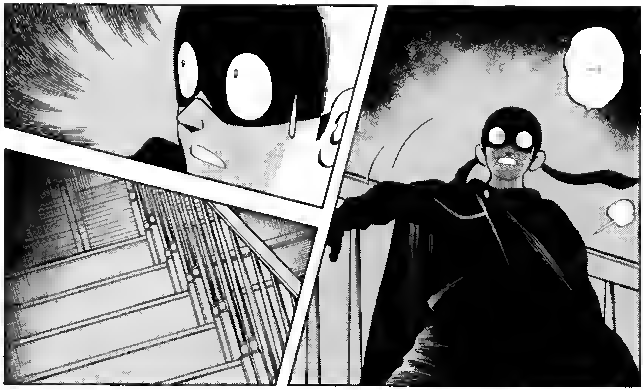


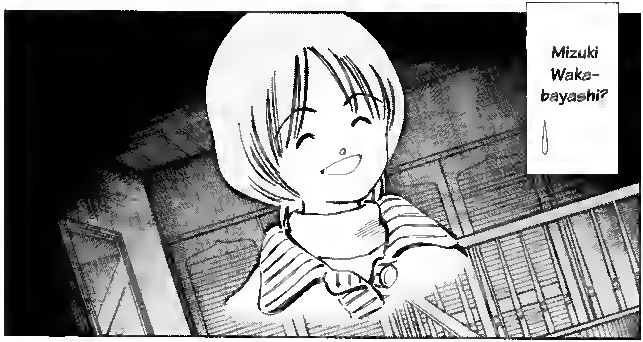

WH-
WHAT IS THIS HOUSE ...?!

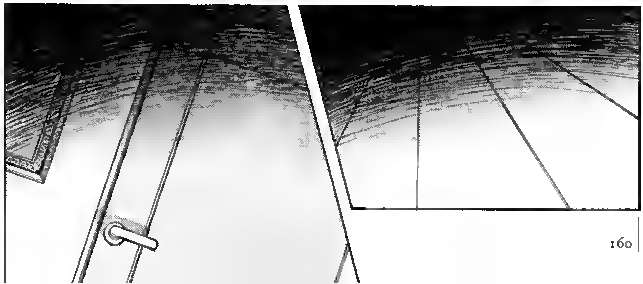

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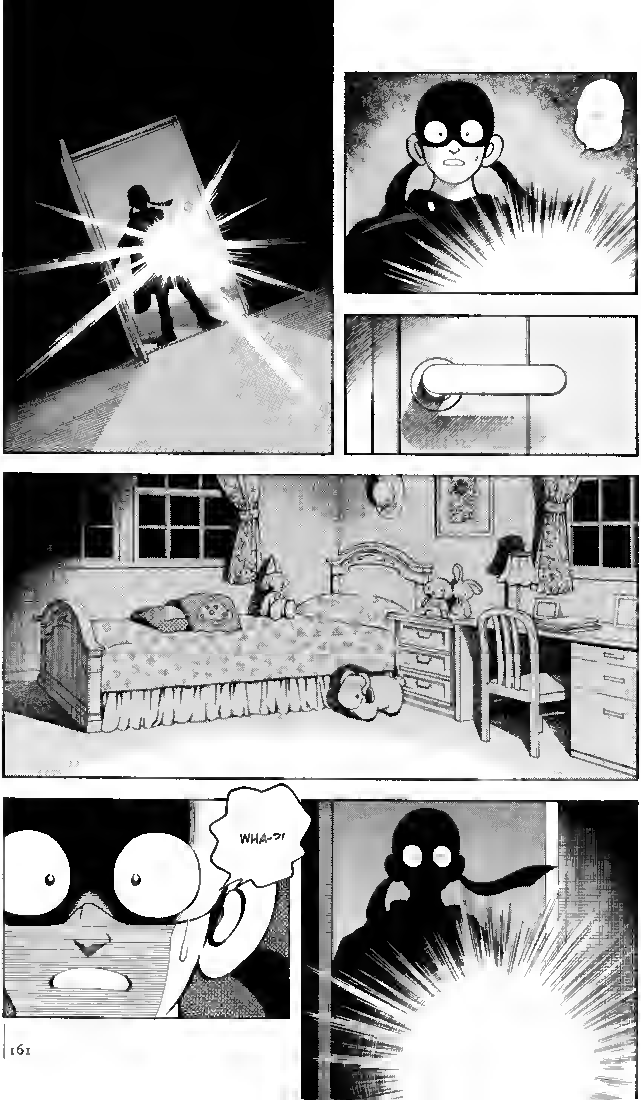

CLICK

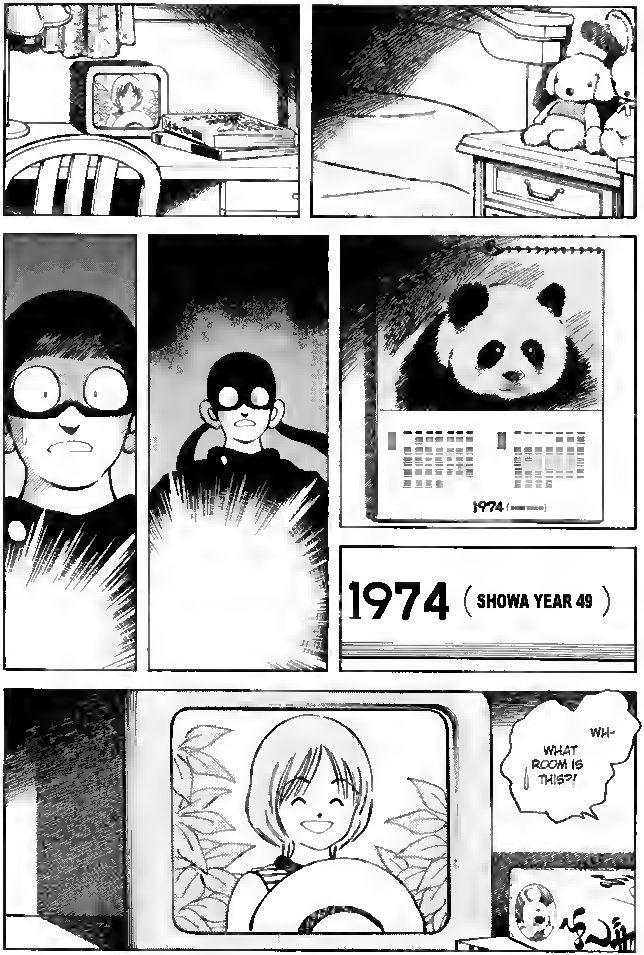


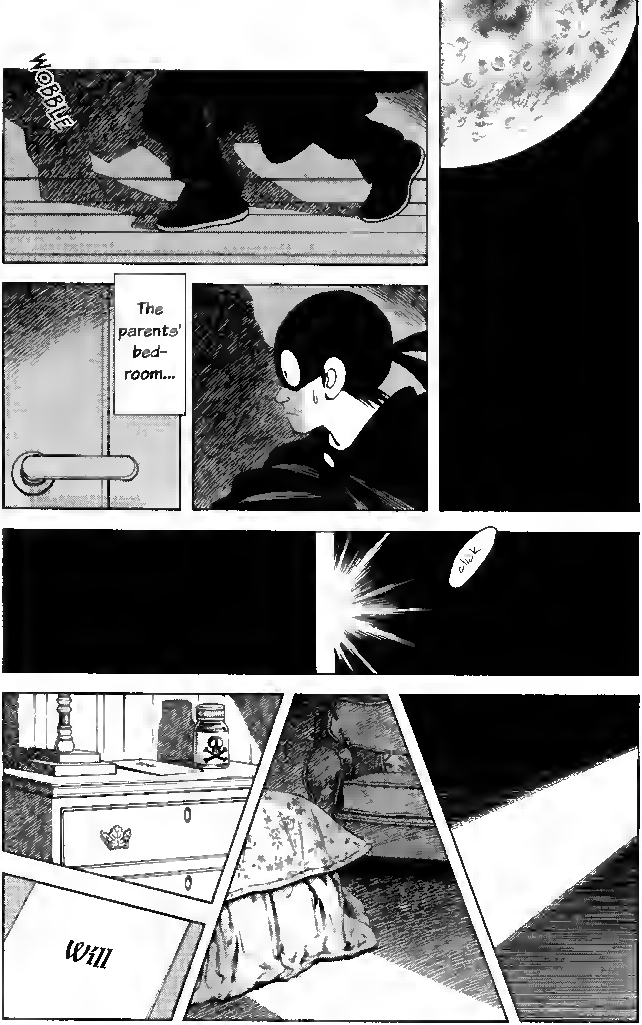


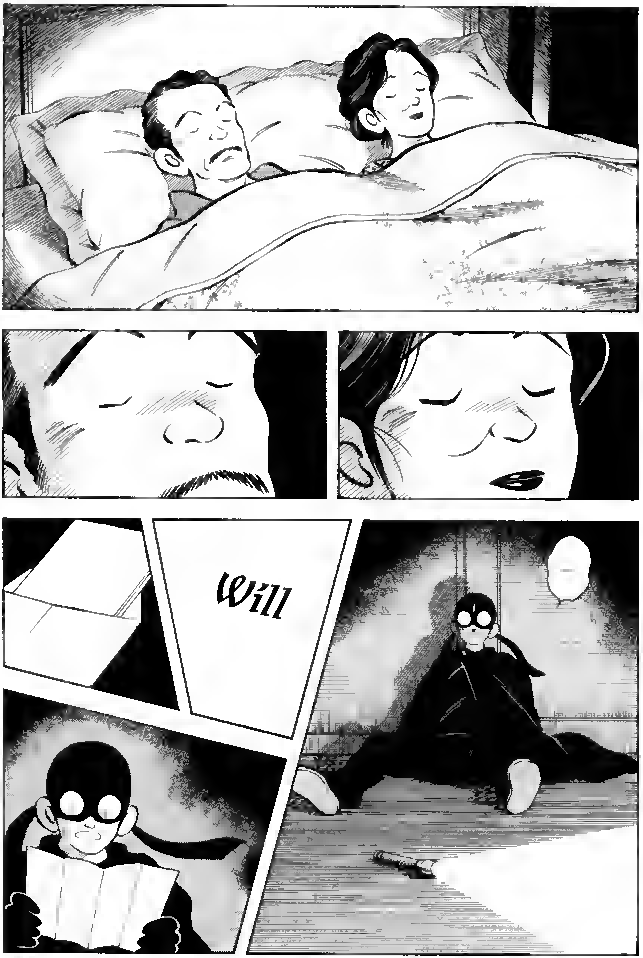

Mizuki Waka-bayashi?

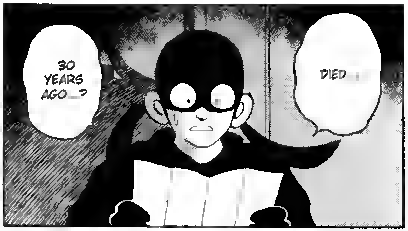



WHA-?!


1974 (SHOWA YEAR 49)
WH-
WHAT ROOM IS THIS?!

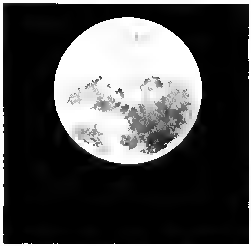

WOBBLE
The parents' bedroom...
CLICK
Will


Will



Ever since our daughter Mizuki died in a car accident 30 years ago, our family has suffered a streak of ill luck.

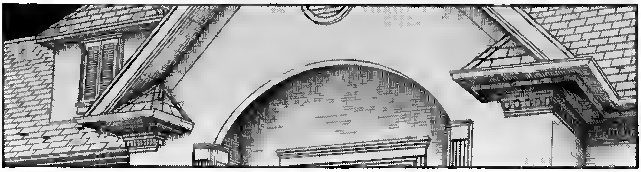
Trusted friends betrayed us,



5 years later, my mother and father died in a plane crash...

and the company my father created in a generation was passed on to uncaring hands.

And the business I inherited sustained massive losses...



Before we can lose Mizuki's room, which has been kept as it was for 30 years,

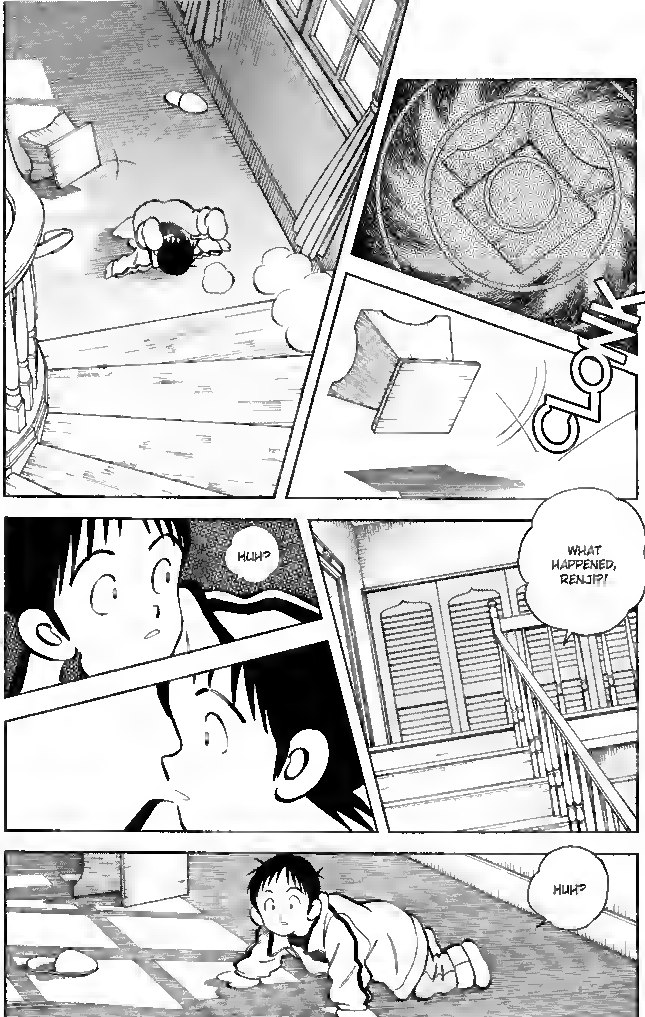


Since my wife fell sick a year ago,

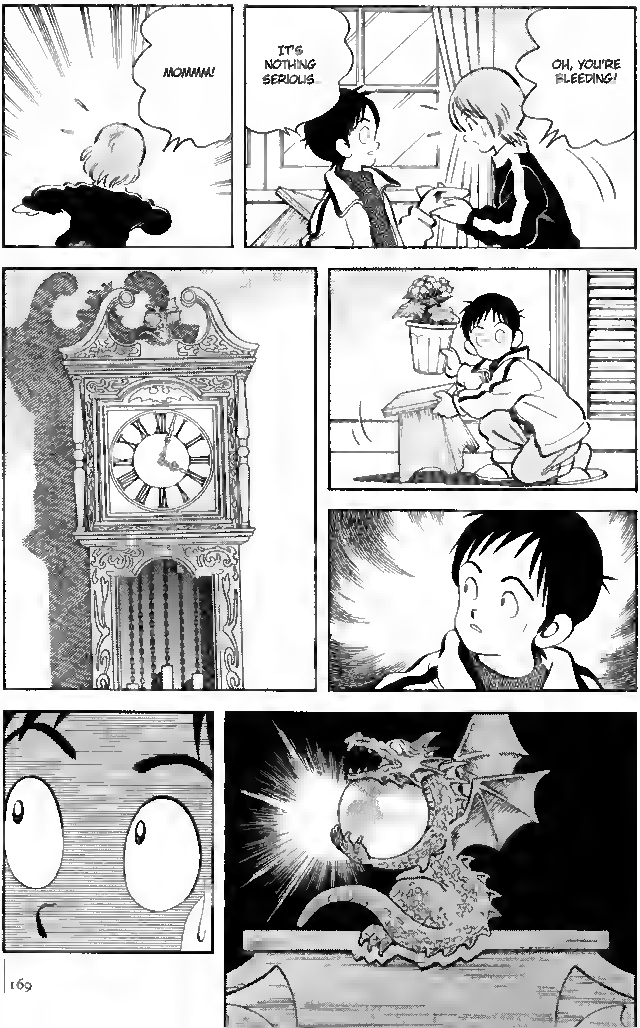
our home has been on the verge of impound.

we will leave to visit her directly, in Heaven.


tik
tik
tik
Goodbye.
Nobuo
& Fusako
Wakabayashi
tik
tik
tik
AAAAAH!


CLONK
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED, RENJI?!
HUH?


NO
ARE YOU OKAY?! DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
OH, I UH, SLIPPED AND FELL DOWN THE STAIRS
GRANDPA BOUGHT IT AT AN ANTIQUE SHOP WHEN HE WAS YOUNG
OH, THIS CLOCK? ISN'T IT FUNNY?
OHHH
IT'S A LUCKY CLOCK
EVEN SINCE HE BOUGHT IT, HIS WORK HAS GONE GREAT


MOMMM!
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
OH, YOU'RE BLEEDING!


I grew more curious with every glance.
And every time I came over to play,
I desired it even more..
WELL, I HAVE TO GO
OH! WAIT, RENJI!
DON'T WORRY! I TOLD YOU, I'M FINE!
MAN...
WHAT WAS THAT...?
A DREAM?
honk honnnk


WHAT'S WRONG?
HOP IN
DAD
GET IN, RENJI!
I'VE GOT SOME FREE TIME LET'S GO ON A DRIVE
I WANNA WATCH A TV SHOW!
LET'S GO ON THE DRIVE THEN!
I HAVE SCHOOL OFF TOMORROW!
PLEASE?!
HEY, LET'S GO BACK HOME FIRST!
YOU CAN TAKE A BATH ANY TIME
I WANT TO TAKE A BATH!
ALL RIGHT


RINGG
RINGG
早川鉄工所
Sign: Hayakawa Ironworking
IT'S ONLY GONNA BE THE LOAN SHARKS AGAIN
DAD! THE PHONE'S RINGING!
SCREECH
RINGGGG
HELLO, HAYAKAWA IRON-WORKING
JUST GO ANSWER IT!
WHAT? YES
RINGG
SHHUNK

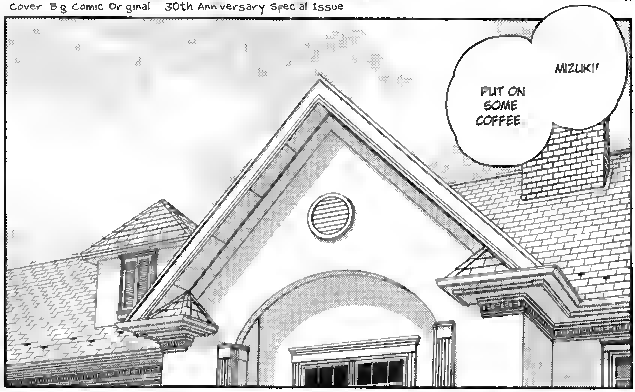




▲ First Big Comic Original Issue

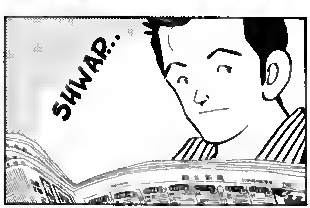


Cover B.g Comic Original 30th Anniversary Special Issue

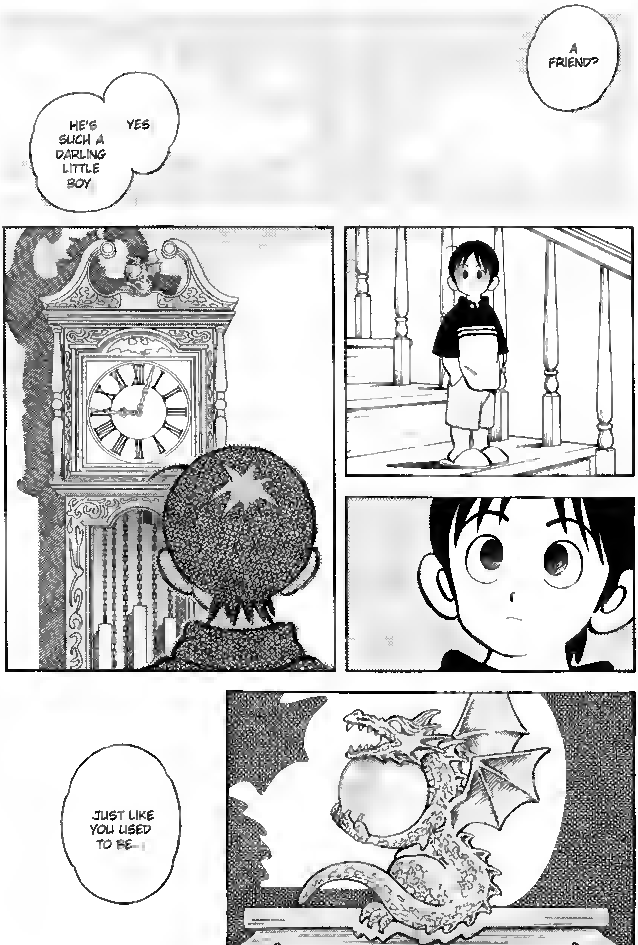






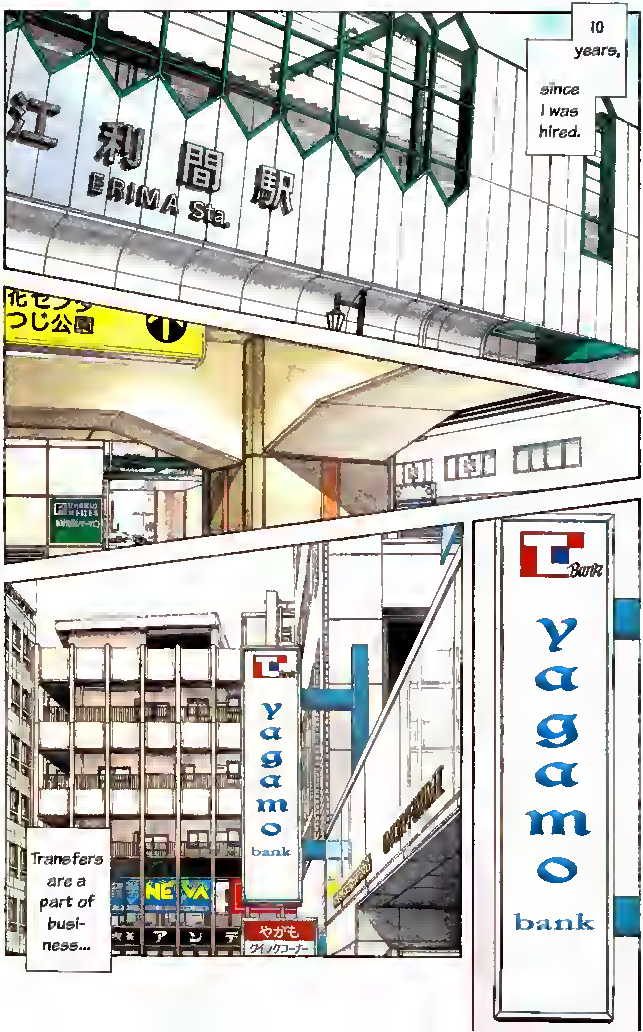


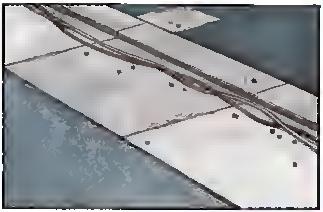

PRACTICALLY A MIRACLE, IN THIS RECESSION
YES, THANKS TO YOU
SEEMS LIKE YOUR BUSINESS IS BOOMING, AS EVER
THANKS, DEAR.
NO, NO, THAT WAS ALL YOUR DOING
ALL READY
OH, SHE'S PLAYING WITH ONE OF HER FRIENDS
WHERE'S SAYAKA?



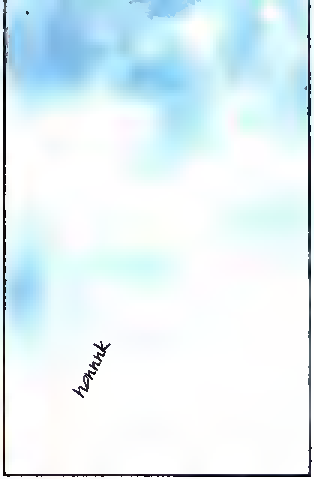
– Chapter 6 End –


CHAPTER
7
SKETCHBOOK

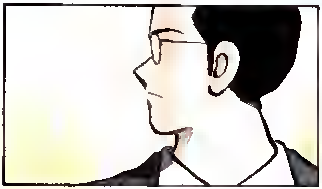

10 years, since I was hired.
江利間駅
ERIMA Sta.
化センター
つじ公園
yagamo bank
Transfers are a part of business...
yagamo bank





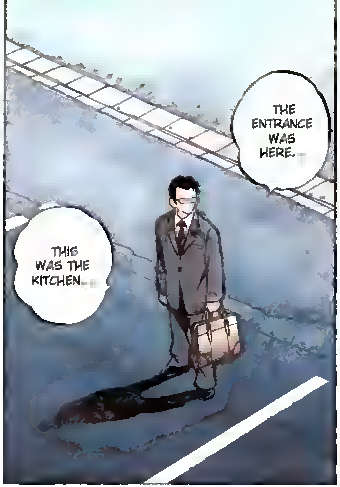


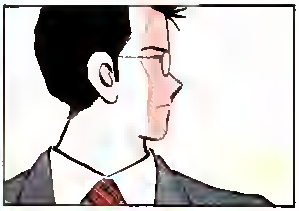




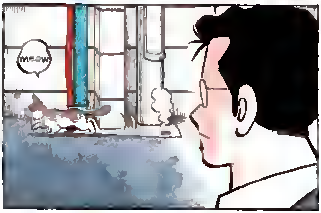


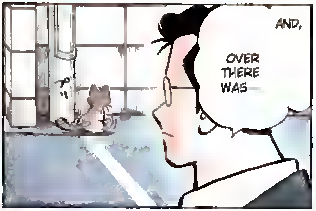
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Translated by Stephen
edited by Pat


THE ENTRANCE WAS HERE...
THIS WAS THE KITCHEN...



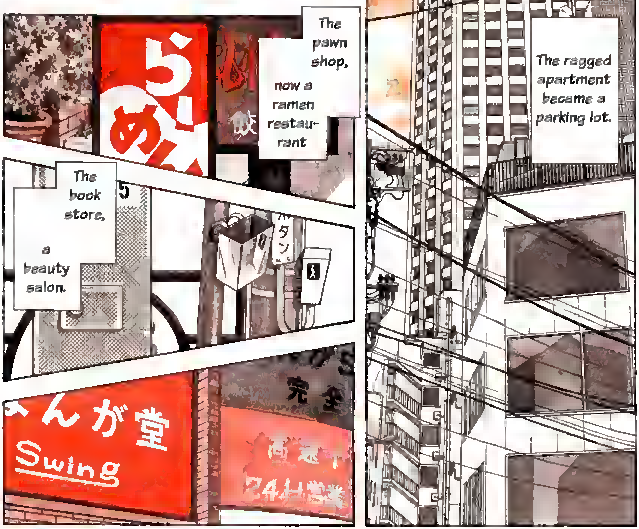

THIS WAS IT


MEOW


AND, OVER THERE WAS...


10 years,
...in the past.


THIS WAS IT...
YEP.

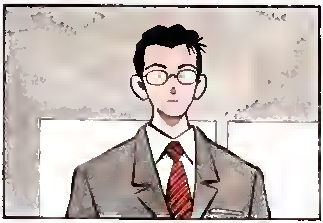


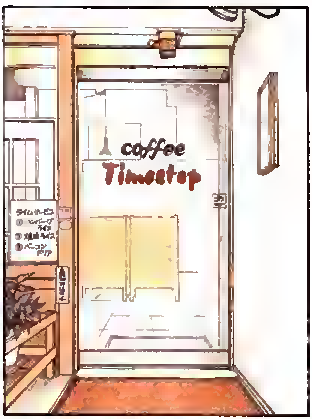
The town I had spent my college years in...

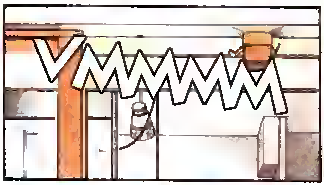
Had entirely changed its complexion.


As well as...
ラーメ
The man who had been a college student...
coffee
Timestop
coffee
Timestop


coffee
Timestop

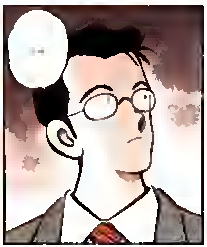


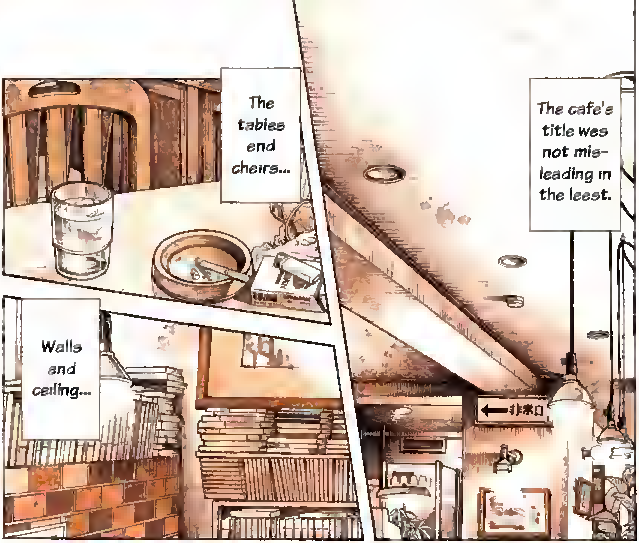

coffee
Timestop


VMMMM







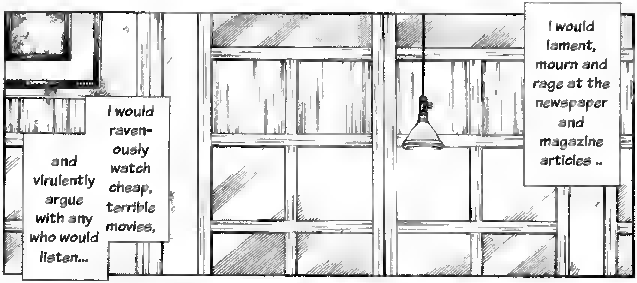


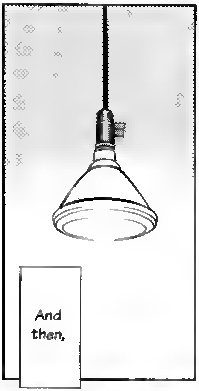


Stopped in time.




The space around the old manga bookshelves I spent so much time with
filled me with a strong sense of yearning.
There was a customer already seated in my traditional spot when I was a student, so I could not sit there..
Even the coffee, which none would have called "delicious," tasted the same...
I would read this manga and laugh out loud...
...Back then,


I would lament, mourn and rage at the newspaper and magazine articles ..
I would ravenously watch cheap, terrible movies,
and virulently argue with any who would listen...


And then,


Fine Fine Gallery
I chased my dreams without a clue as to my real worth,
In those days...

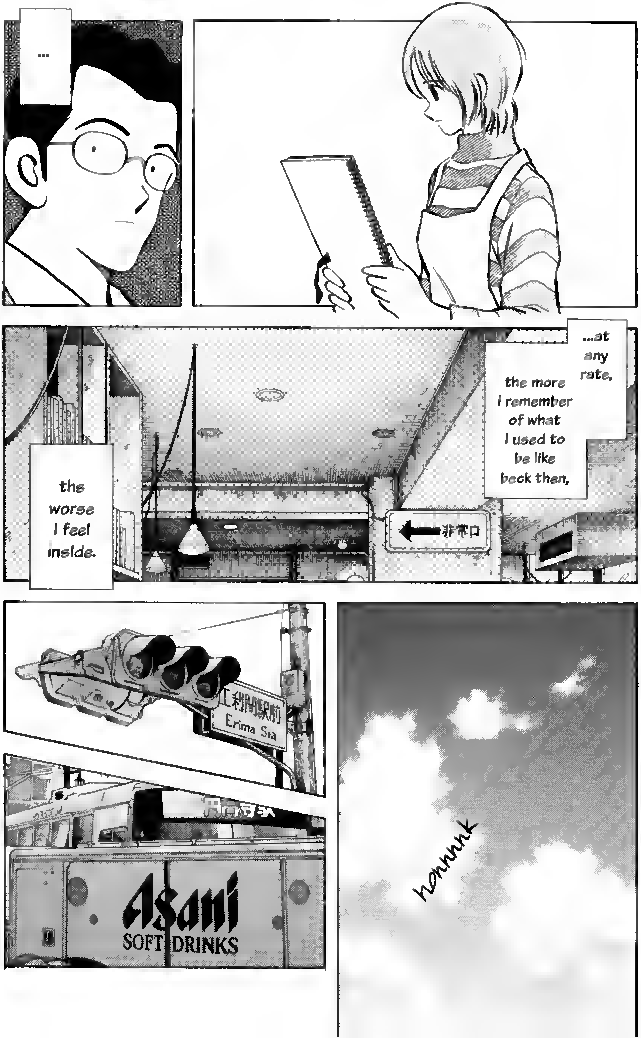

WAAAAHHH!


I was dumped by the first girlfriend I ever had...


DASH
I even cried out loud in public, like he just did...
SNIFF
I TOLD YOU HE WOULD CRY
I HAD HIM DANCING ON MY STRINGS WITHIN TWO WEEKS
YOU SAW MY BRILLIANT ACTING
ALL RIGHT, I WON
1,000 YEN EACH
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
A MAN LIKE HIM, CRYING OUT LOUD!
YEAH!


SPLASH
I WAS PROBABLY THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO HIM...
YOU NEVER KNOW.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
OH, COME ON.
IF HE KILLS HIMSELF, YOU BOTH OWE ME 10,000 EXTRA ♡
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
YOU'RE JUST A WAITRESS HERE!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
WH-WHAT?!
YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY YOUR BILL JUST LEAVE
AND I'M "JUST" THE OWNER
YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY YOUR BILL JUST LEAVE

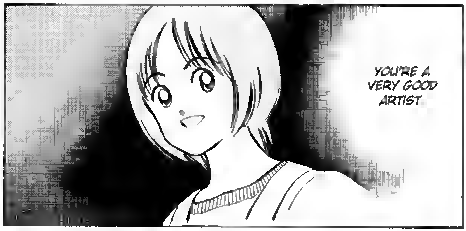

The owner hasn't changed in 10 years.
LET'S GO
HMPH!
SIR,
HE LEFT THIS BEHIND
KEEP IT SAFE
I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK TO RETRIEVE IT
OKAY
I've changed so much since then...
I guess he wouldn't remember me.


...
...at any rate, the more I remember of what I used to be like back then,
the worse I feel inside.
非常口
Erima Sia
Asahi
SOFT DRINKS
hohnnnk


What I realized when I found work,
was that I was much better at it than I'd thought I would be.
By plunging into my job and not thinking about anything else,
I was soon able to leap past my peers.
ラーン
No matter what was happening with the world at large,
I gained the confidence to survive.
And thanks to the same, I'm still single now...
VRMMMMM
THIS STORE HAS CLOSED
KUDO SHOPS
空室あり
Sign: Rooms Open


GYAHAHA
IT'S PERFECT!
WHADDAYA THINK?!
YER A GENIUS!
95
...idiot college students.
302
MIYADE
ting-a-ling
ting-a-ling
HELLO?
beep

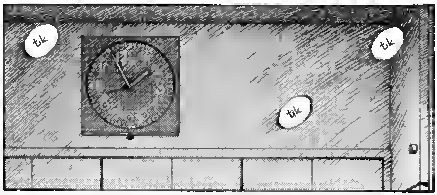

One of the few college friends I still kept in touch with after I graduated...
ARE YOU SETTLING IN NOW?
MOST OF MY STUFF IS STILL IN BOXES THOUGH
YEAH
HEY MIYADE?!
IT'S ME, SAKAMOTO!
He was the son of a grocery store,
and now he's married and runs it...
TOMORROW?
YEAH,
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STILL IN BUSINESS.
"TIMESTOP," IN FRONT OF THE STATION?
beep
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
ALL RIGHT.

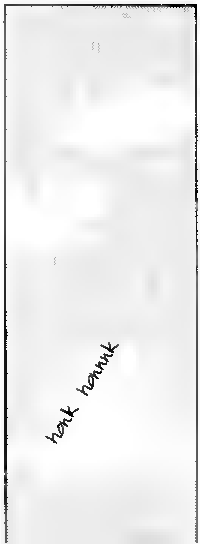

YOU'RE A VERY GOOD ARTIST


tik
tik
A
A

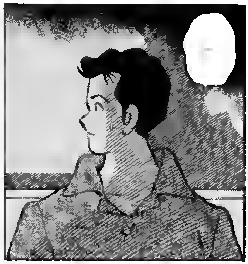

LURCH



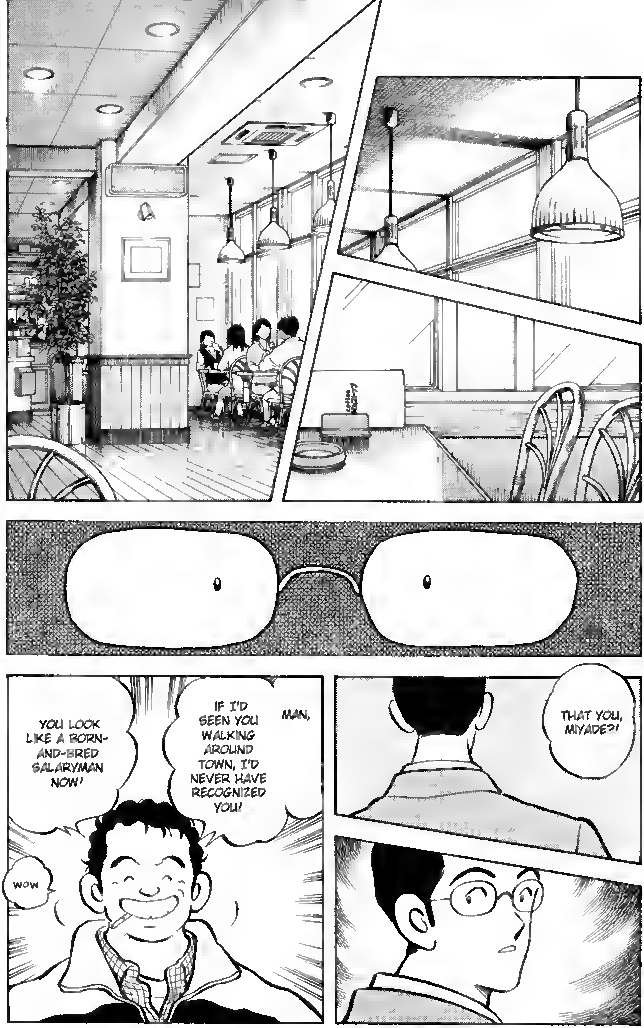

tik
tik
tik


honk honnnk


NAWW... IT JUST COULDN'T BE




2F
BEAUTY SALON
ksmode
HIROKO AVAHCER
coffee TIMESTOP
coffee TIMESTOP
fshh
WELCOME!
VMMMM

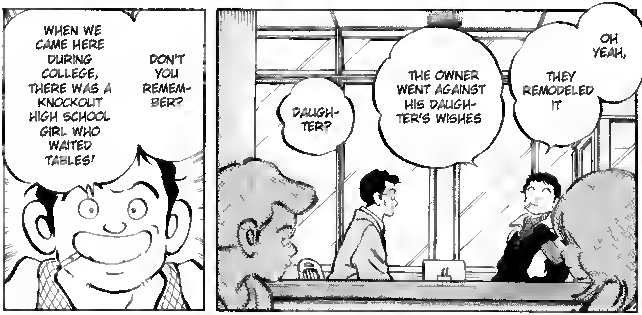

THAT YOU, MIYADE?!
MAN, IF I'D SEEN YOU WALKING AROUND TOWN, I'D NEVER HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU!
YOU LOOK LIKE A BORN-AND-BRED SALARYMAN NOW!
WOW

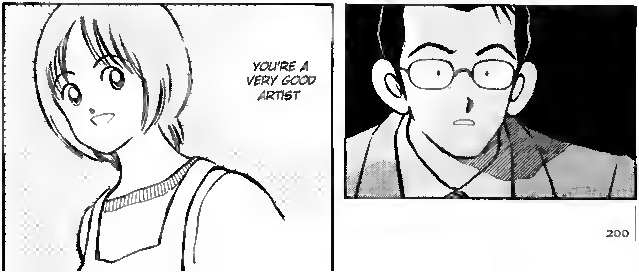

UM, NOTHING
OH-
WHAT'S UP?
HUH?
HAVE A SEAT
RIGHT
YOU WERE SO EASY TO READ, BACK THEN
COURSE NOT!
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE
THAT ALWAYS USED TO KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP
AWW, MAN


YOU REMEMBER THE DAY,
YOU FINALLY BROKE THE NEWS TO THAT GIRL YOU HAD A CRUSH ON FOR THREE YEARS? JUNKO SHIMOYANAGI
TOTALLY SMACKED YOUR FACE ON THE AUTOMATIC DOOR,
AND HAD BLOOD GUSHING OUT YOUR NOSE
ALL SO YOU COULD COME IN HERE AND GIVE ME THE NEWS
NOT THAT I NEEDED THE REPORT
WHAT HAPPENED WAS WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE PLAIN AS DAY!
ACTUALLY, YOU USED TO SLAM YOUR FACE ON THE DOOR ALL THE TIME NOT JUST THEN
PLAIN COFFEE
ANYWAYS,
YOUR FACE THAT DAY SAID YOU WERE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN JAPAN.
ONCE I HEARD YOU GOT A JOB AT A BANK,
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS
WELL, PEOPLE CHANGE
CHUK


I HAD HIM DANCING ON MY STRINGS
WITHIN TWO WEEKS
AND IT ONLY LASTED TWO WEEKS.
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOW I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT HER FACE LOOKED LIKE ...
AHHH, DON'T EVEN BOTHER
JUST THINKING, EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T THINK ABOUT ANY OTHER WOMAN THROUGH COLLEGE,
OH, UH,
I NEVER TOLD YOU, BECAUSE YOU WERE SO HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HER,
BUT JUNKO SHIMOYANAGI HAD A REAL BAD REPU-
HUH?


ALWAYS SO CLEAN?
WAS THIS PLACE...
1,000 YEN EACH
ALL RIGHT, I WON.

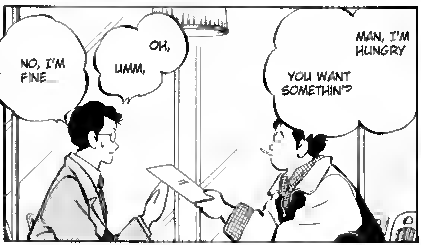

WHEN WE CAME HERE DURING COLLEGE, THERE WAS A KNOCKOUT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO WAITED TABLES!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
DAUGHTER?
THE OWNER WENT AGAINST HIS DAUGHTER'S WISHES
OH YEAH, THEY REMODELED IT

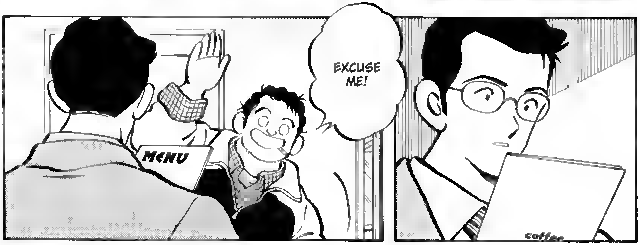

YOU'RE A VERY GOOD ARTIST

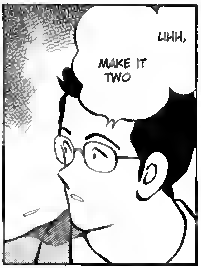

AND I'M "JUST" THE OWNER.
IT WAS TWO YEARS BEFORE THE OLD MAN DIED,
SO I'D GUESS FOUR YEARS SINCE THE REMODEL
DIED?
YEP. AND NOW THAT GIRL'S ALL GROWN UP AND RUNNING THE CAFE
KNOWN FOR HER STUNNING GOOD LOOKS
THIS IS KIND OF ODD, THOUGH
WHAT IS?
THEY REMODELED THE WHOLE PLACE TO LOOK NICE AND NEW, BUT ONLY THIS CHAIR IS STILL THE OLD STYLE
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY COULD HAVE BEEN JUST SHORT OF THE MONEY TO GET ONE LITTLE CHAIR
I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK TO RETRIEVE IT

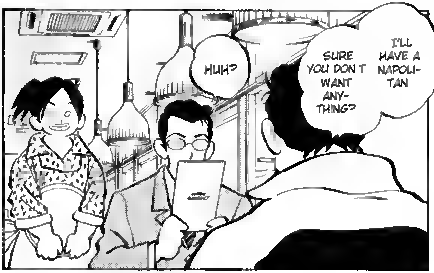




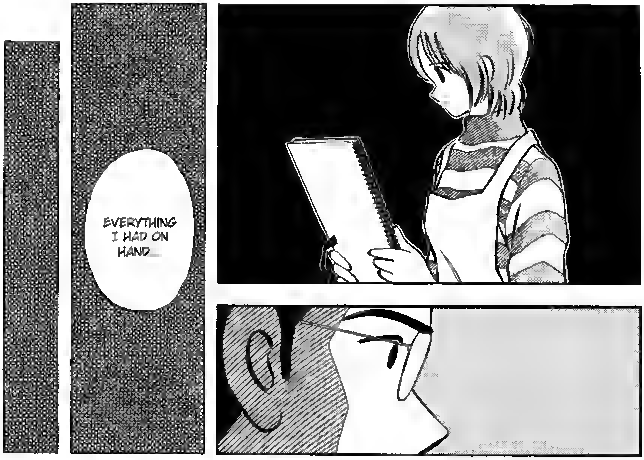

NO, I'M FINE...
OH, UMM,
MAN, I'M HUNGRY
YOU WANT SOMETHIN'?

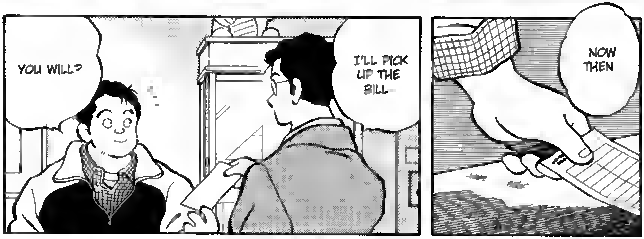

MENU
EXCUSE ME!
coffee

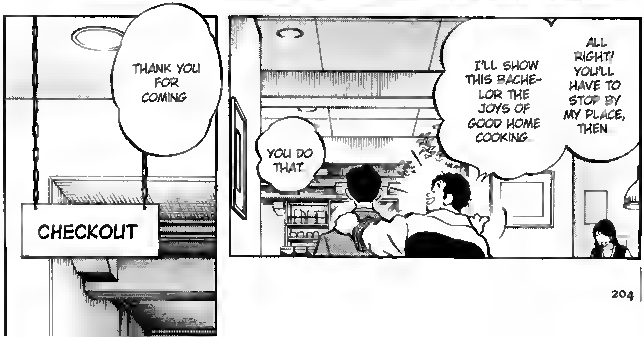

UHH, MAKE IT TWO


I'LL HAVE A NAPOLI-TAN
SURE YOU DON'T WANT ANY-THING?
HUH?

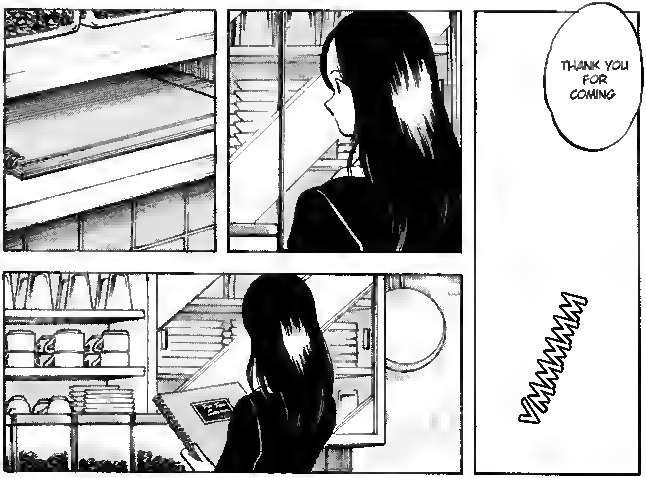

I REMEMBER YOU CARRYING AROUND A SKETCHBOOK YOU WOULD DRAW IN
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DIDN'T YOU WANT TO BE A STORY-BOOK ARTIST?
OH!
MAN, 10 YEARS
IT JUST FLIES BY
BUT YOU SURE WERE GOOD AT IT
I NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT,
I BURNED IT
BURNED ALL OF THEM
YOU'VE STILL GOT THE THING, DON'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD LET ME SEE IT SOME-TIME
NO

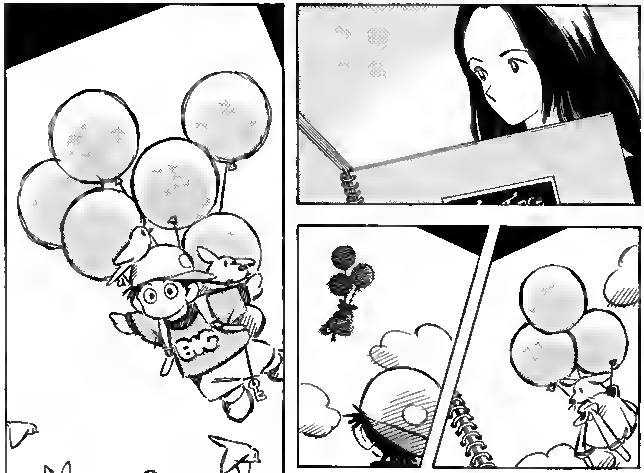

EVERYTHING I HAD ON HAND...

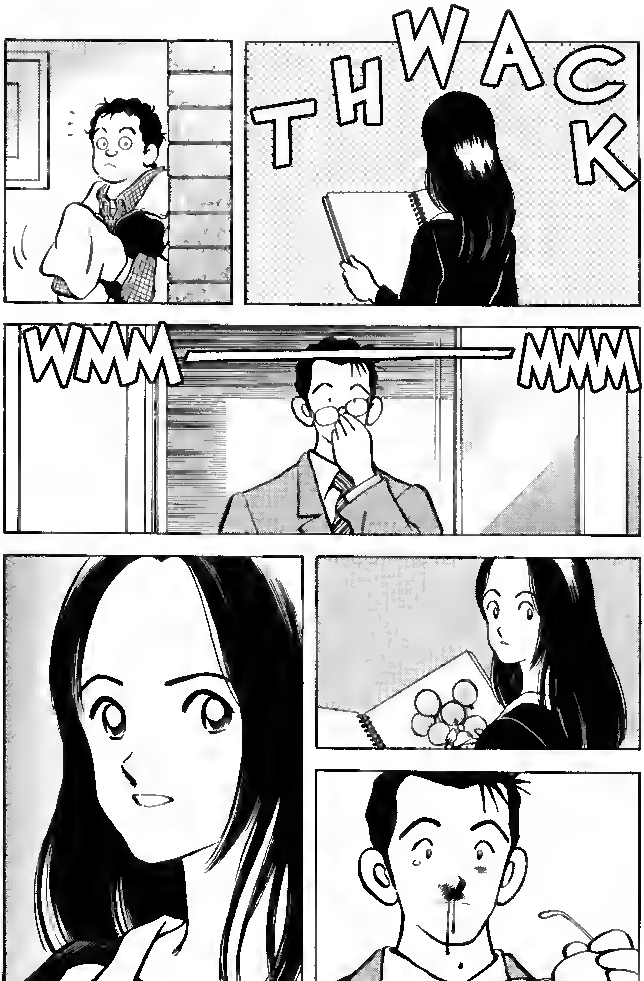

YOU WILL?
I'LL PICK UP THE BILL
NOW THEN

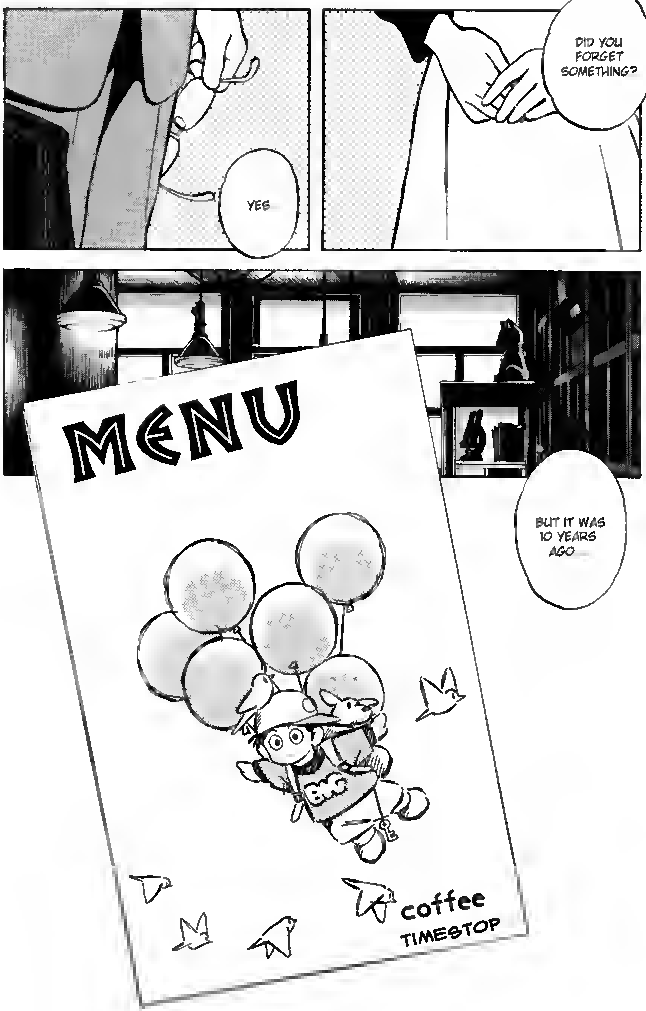

THANK YOU FOR COMING
CHECKOUT
YOU DO THAT
I'LL SHOW THIS BACHELOR THE JOYS OF GOOD HOME COOKING
ALL RIGHT! YOU'LL HAVE TO STOP BY MY PLACE, THEN


TOILET→
I'M GONNA TAKE A PIT STOP
UH, SURE
THAT'S THE OWNER
250 YEN IS YOUR CHANGE
CHECK THE COINS
IS THERE ANY-THING EL-SE?
UH, NO
HUH?
JUST THE RECEIPT


THANK YOU FOR COMING
VVVVVVVV




THWACK
WMM
MMM


YES
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
MENU
coffee
TIMESTOP
BUT IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO...

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Chapter 5
Jun 5 2003 Issue

Chapter 6
Jun 5 2004 Issue

Chapter 7
Apr 20 2005 Issue

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